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WEIRD

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CARL BURGOS, Editor **IRVING FASS**, Art Director

EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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ON THIS **SICKENING SAGA**, WE TAKE YOU TO THE **CIRCUS**... BUT INSTEAD OF POPCORN, WE OFFER YOU A TASTE OF **MURDER**! YOU'LL **DROOL** AS YOU READ THIS TALE!

MONSTER FREAKOUT

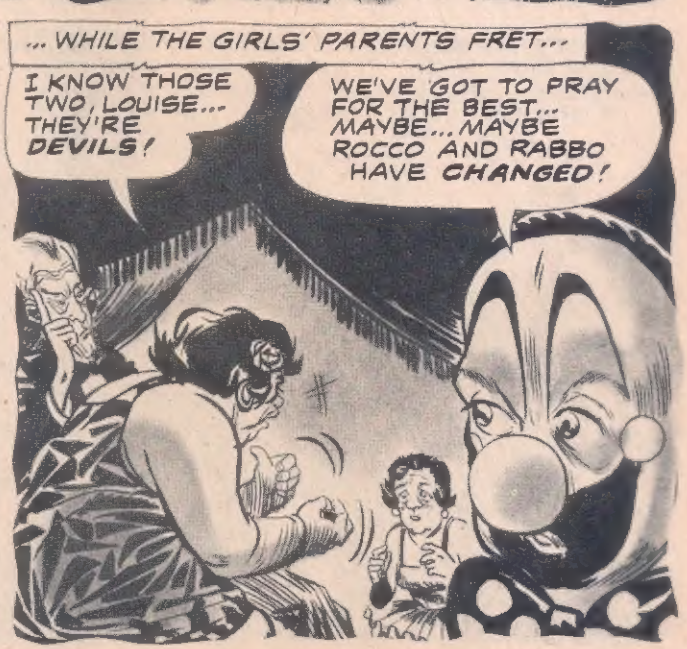
FOR YEARS, THE AERIALISTS MADE EVEN "THE STRANGE ONES" HATE THEM...
C'MON... GET OUT OF THE WAY... MAKE ROOM FOR A MAN!
CUT IT OUT, YOU... UGHH!
YOU TWO MAKE ME SICK! SOMEDAY YOU'LL PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE, AND...
HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW, LITTLE BESSIE? YOU'RE TWICE MY SIZE!
HA! HA! HA! THAT'S A RIOT!
HA! HA! DID YOU GET A LOOK AT HER FAT FACE!
TAKE IT EASY, DEAR... DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM!
BUT IT'S HARD FOR THEM TO IGNORE THE NEVER-ENDING INSULTS OF ROCCO AND RABBO...
HURRY, YOU TWO!
WE'RE COMING... LOUISE IS PUTTING ON HER HAT!
AS THE FOURSOME STARTS ON THEIR WAY...
OH, LOUIS, I CAN HARDLY WAIT... IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE FREAKS ON PARADE!
YEAH! THE GOON SQUAD! HA! HA!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ROC...
WHEN I ASK YOU A QUESTION, YOU ANSWER ME, BEAN POLE!
LEAVE HIM ALONE! WE'RE GOING TO MEET OUR DAUGHTERS!
THE THOUGHT OF THE TWO FREAK COUPLES HAVING CHILDREN SENDS ROCCO AND RABBO INTO CUNVULSIVE LAUGHTER!
DAUGHTERS? HO, HA! HEE! OH, NO! NO! HA! HA!
CAN YOU IMAGINE... HA, HA, HA-- WHAT THEY'LL LOOK LIKE? HA-HA-HA!

LATER IN THE DAY, HARRY OWEN, THE CIRCUS OWNER, CALLS HIS COMPANY TOGETHER...
LOOK, KIDS, I'M GOING TO GIVE A PARTY TONIGHT FOR SLIM AND LITTLE BESSIE'S DAUGHTER AND LOUIS AND LOUISE'S DAUGHTER WHO ARE COMING HOME! LET'S GIVE 'EM A BIG WELCOME!
THAT NIGHT...
JUST PICTURE AGNES! PROBABLY 6'4" AND WEIGHS 300 POUNDS!
YEAH...AND ALICE MUST BE 3'9" AND WEIGHS 75 POUNDS!
WELCOME HOME AGNES & ALICE!
ONCE INSIDE...
HOLY COW! DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
Y-YEAH...
YES, IT'S SMALL WONDER THAT RABBO AND ROCCO CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR EYES...
GO AHEAD, AGNES SWEET, EAT SOMETHING!
MOTHER AND I ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, ALICE!
THE PARTY CONTINUES TO EARLY MORNING...
HEY, BABY...YOU'RE THE GIRL FOR ME!
ANGEL, YOU'RE A LIVING DREAM!
BUT THE GIRLS' PARENTS AREN'T HAPPY, AS...
SLIM! I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!
LATER, THE PARENTS ATTEMPT TO TALK TO THEIR DAUGHTERS...
BUT, AGNES... YOU CAN'T GO OUT WITH ROCCO!
I FORBID IT, ALICE! NOT RABBO! ANYBODY BUT HIM!
25

BUT THE GIRLS REFUSE TO LISTEN...
OH, MOTHER, DON'T BE FOOLISH... ROCCO IS AN ANGEL!
I'M SORRY, DAD, BUT I'M GOING TO SEE RABBO... HE'S SO WONDERFUL!

And NOTHING THEIR MOTHERS OR FATHERS SAY MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE TO THE GIRLS...
OH, ALICE LOOK AT THEM! AREN'T THEY MARVELOUS?
WONDERFUL!

EVERY NIGHT THE TWO GIRLS DATE THE TWINS...
RABBO... RABBO, DARLING!
ROCCO... ROCCO...


... WHILE THE GIRLS' PARENTS FRET...
I KNOW THOSE TWO, LOUISE... THEY'RE DEVILS!
WE'VE GOT TO PRAY FOR THE BEST... MAYBE... MAYBE ROCCO AND RABBO HAVE CHANGED!

HAVE THE TWINS CHANGED? LET'S SEE...
AREN'T THEY A SCREAM? THEY'RE NUTS ABOUT US!
THEY'RE NUTS, PERIOD!
31-A

SURE... AND WHEN SOMETHING BETTER SHOWS UP, GOODBYE, AGNES!
... AND SO LONG, ALICE!
ROCCO

NO... THE TWINS HAVEN'T CHANGED... FOR THE NEXT DAY...
UGH! I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN A FREAK!
YEAH... THEY MAKE ME VOMIT!

EVEN THE OBVIOUS CRUELTIES OF THE TWINS DO NOT SWAY AGNES AND ALICE...
THERE! DID YOU HEAR WHAT YOUR FINE SWEETHEARTS HAD TO SAY?
DON'T BE SO EMOTIONAL, MOTHER!

YES, LOVE IS BLIND... AND LATER THAT NIGHT, THE TWINS ARE BLIND... BLIND DRUNK!
YESSIR! NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE DRINK!
HURRY! GIVE ME (HIC) SOME!

And AS THE DRUNKEN DUO PASS THE MIDGET'S WAGON...
WELL, (HIC) LOOK WHO'S HERE!
BOYS, I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU! LET'S TAKE A WALK!

NO, LOUIE, INSTEAD OF WALKING... HIC... HOW ABOUT TAKING A RIDE!
WAIT! PUT ME DOWN!

ROCCO AND RABBO TAKE THE MIDGET TO THEIR WAGON WHERE HE MAKES THEM AN OFFER...
$5,000! IT'S ALL THE MONEY I'VE GOT! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU IF YOU'LL LEAVE THE GIRLS ALONE!

LEAVE THEM ALONE? HA! HA! IT WILL BE A PLEASURE! WE WERE GETTING BORED WITH THEM ANYWAY!
HAHAHA! GETTING PAID TO GET THOSE DIZZY DAMES OFF OUR NECKS! HO-HA!

YOU DOGS! HOW DARE YOU TALK ABOUT MY GIRL THAT WAY! I OUGHT TO KILL YOU!
AW SHADDUP! YOU'RE MAKING ME SICK LAUGHING!

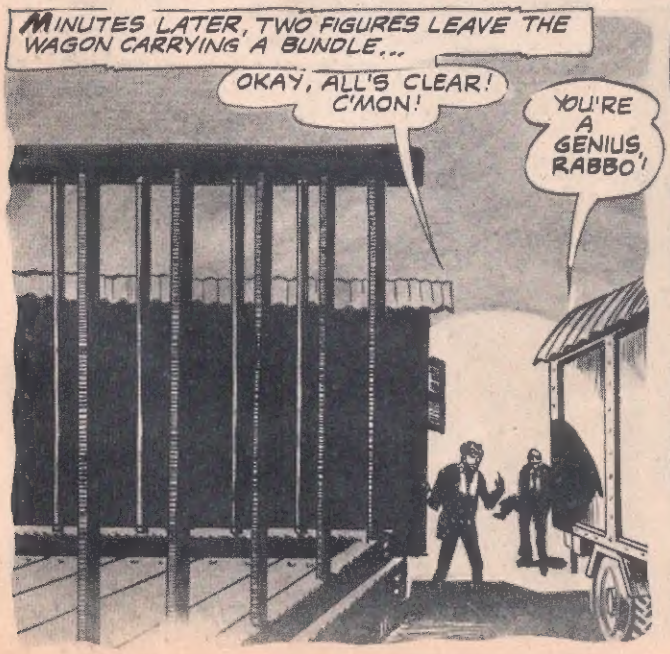
THEN...
YOU BIG MORONS! I...
HEY! IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, BEAN-BRAIN, YOU'RE GONNA FIND IT!

SUDDENLY, THE DRUNKEN ROCCO GRABS THE MIDGET...
YOU FREAKS ALL MAKE ME SICK!
YOU TELL 'IM, BROTHER TELL 'IM!

ROCCO SPINS LOUIS AROUND AND AROUND IN DRUNKEN FRENZY...THEN...
THERE, YOU DIRTY LITTLE FREAK!
STOP! DON'T! YAGGH!

LOUIS'S TINY BODY DROPS TO THE FLOOR!
HEY... HE ISN'T MOVING...
NO WONDER... HE'S DEAD!

THE PAIR ARE STUNNED...
W-WHAT'LL WE DO?
TAKE IT EASY! WE GOTTA BE CALM!


MINUTES LATER, TWO FIGURES LEAVE THE WAGON CARRYING A BUNDLE...
OKAY, ALL'S CLEAR! C'MON!
YOU'RE A GENIUS, RABBO!

ALL IS SILENT ON THE CIRCUS GROUNDS AND NO ONE HEARS AS A CAGE DOOR IS OPENED AND A SMALL BUNDLE IS THROWN INSIDE...

THERE IS A SCREAM OF HORROR ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING WHEN THE BODY OF THE MIDGET IS DISCOVERED...

OH, MY GOD! NO... NO!

PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE AND BY EVENING, THE POLICE HAVE CONDUCTED AN UNREWARDING SEARCH!

IT HAD TO BE AN ACCIDENT, MA'AM! MAYBE HE WAS...ER... DRINKING... AND ACCIDENTALLY WANDERED INTO THE CAGE!

NO... (SOB)...HE NEVER DRANK! OH, LOUIS... MY POOR LOUIS!

THAT NIGHT ALL THE FREAKS GATHER TO CONSOLE LOUISE...

WE'RE SO SORRY! TRY TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, DEAR!

AND WHERE WERE YOU TWO LAST NIGHT?

LOOK WHO'S ASKING QUESTIONS!

THE TWINS GO ON THEIR WAY, BUT THE FREAKS KNOW... SILENTLY THEY KNOW WHO KILLED LOUIE...

WE'VE KEPT QUIET LONG ENOUGH. WE KNOW WHO KILLED LOUIE!

YEAH! LET'S GO GET THE DOGS!

YOU MEAN MURDERERS! C'MON! LET'S GO!

NEAR A DESERTED LOT... MINUTES LATER...

HEY! WHAT ARE ALL YOU FREAKS DOING HERE?

YOU AND YOUR FILTHY BROTHER KILLED LITTLE LOUIE AND WE'RE GOING TO EVEN THE SCORE!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, YOU...

STOP! NO! YAGGHHRR!

YOU'VE TORTURED US FOR YEARS! NOW IT'S OUR TURN!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE CIRCUS OWNER FINDS A NEW MEMBER WAITING ON HIS DOORSTEP! THE SEWING IS A LITTLE CROOKED, THE FACES A LITTLE MESSED UP... THE NEW MEMBER IS A FREAK... A TWO-HEADED MAN!

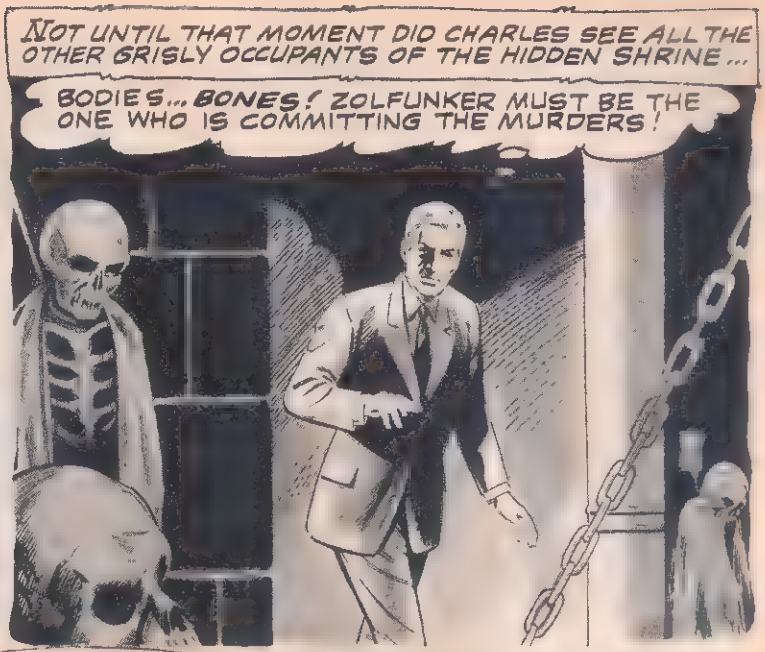
ROCO & RABBO

THE END

DEMON GODDESS

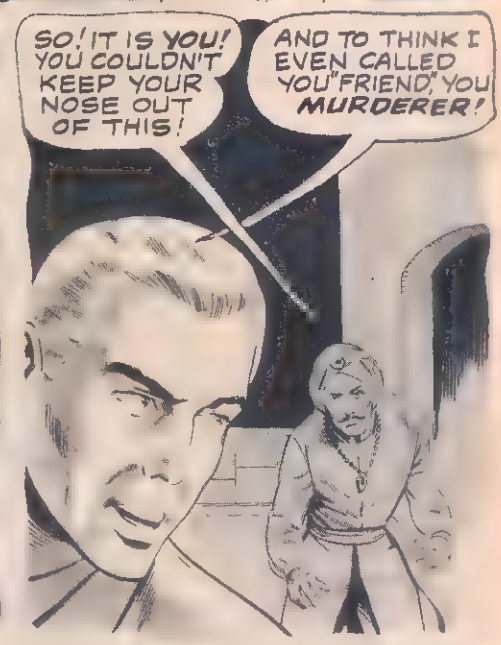
ON AN ESTATE NEAR CALCUTTA, CHARLES DELAVAN, AN ENGLISHMAN, VISITING INDIA, WAS THE GUEST OF A WEALTHY HINDU...
THE POLICE ARE MOST DISTURBED ABOUT THE MURDERS IN THE VICINITY OF YOUR ESTATE!
IF WE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE CULT OF THE THUGGEES HAS BEEN EXTINCT, WE WOULD FEEL THAT WAS WHAT WE WERE FACING!
HOW FANTASTIC, MY DEAR CAPTAIN!
NOT SO... THERE ARE THOSE WHO STILL WORSHIP SECRETLY AT THE SHRINES OF KALI!
AT ANY RATE, I WISH TO WARN YOU AND YOUR GUESTS TO BE CAUTIOUS!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE ONE OF THESE SHRINES OF KALI MIGHT BE? IT MIGHT BE AMUSING TO SEE ONE!
WHAT AMUSES YOU MIGHT NOT AMUSE KALI, MY FRIEND!
LATER, IN HIS ROOM IN ZOLFUKAR'S HOME, CHARLES THOUGHT OF THE MANY STRANGE THINGS THAT HAPPENED...
ZOLFUKAR ALWAYS PRETENDS TO SCORN THE MYTHICAL GODS OF HIS RACE... HMM... I WONDER WHERE HE'S GOING THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
CHARLES SLIPPED OUT AND FOLLOWED HIS FRIEND DOWN A SECRET STAIRWAY UNDER THE SUMMER HOUSE...
OH, KALEE! KUN-KALEE! BHU-KALEE! ANSWER IF IT SEEMS FIT BY THEE THAT THE GUEST UNDER MY ROOF SHOULD DIE!

HE--HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME! AND THAT HIDEOUS IDOL MUST BE KALI! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

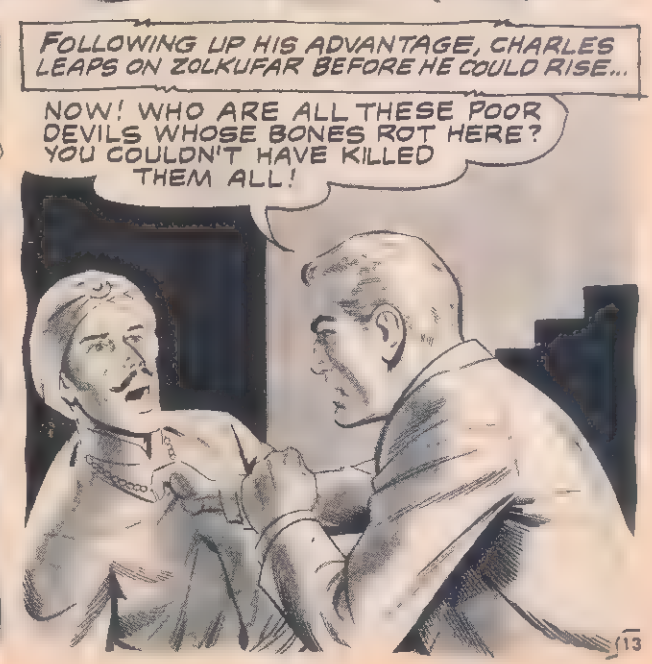

NOT UNTIL THAT MOMENT DID CHARLES SEE ALL THE OTHER GRISLY OCCUPANTS OF THE HIDDEN SHRINE...
BODIES... BONES! ZOLFUNKER MUST BE THE ONE WHO IS COMMITTING THE MURDERS!

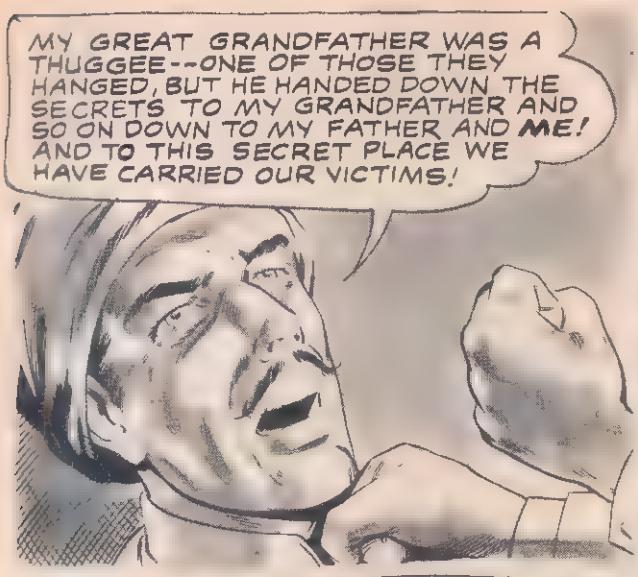
BUT SOME OF THESE BODIES HAVE BEEN HERE FOR YEARS! EEK! THIS DOOR IS STUCK!

THE TRAP DOOR! SOMEONE HAS FOLLOWED ME!

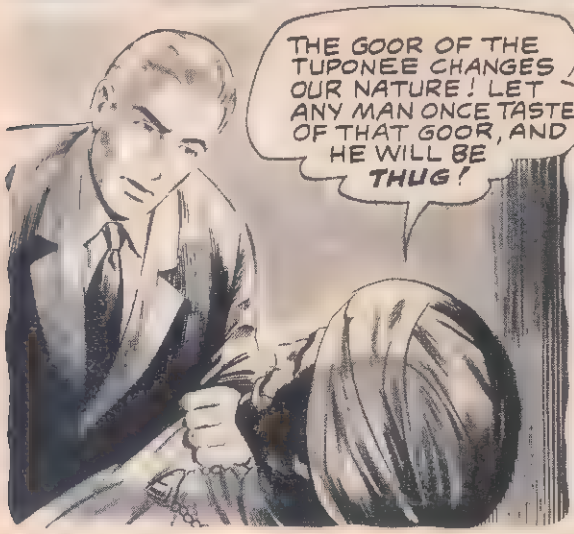

SO! IT IS YOU! YOU COULDN'T KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF THIS!
AND TO THINK I EVEN CALLED YOU "FRIEND", YOU MURDERER!

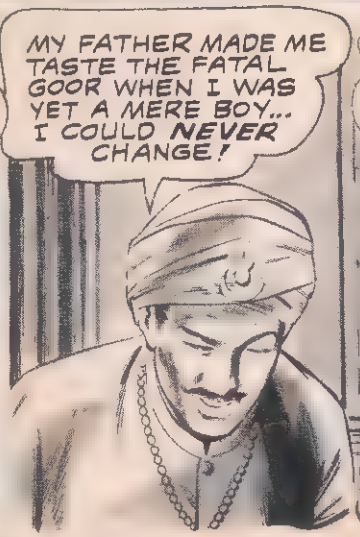
BUT YOU WON'T GET A CHANCE TO GET THOSE STRANGLING HANDS AROUND MY NECK!
OOOFFF!


FOLLOWING UP HIS ADVANTAGE, CHARLES LEAPS ON ZOLKUFAR BEFORE HE COULD RISE...
NOW! WHO ARE ALL THESE POOR DEVILS WHOSE BONES ROT HERE? YOU COULDN'T HAVE KILLED THEM ALL!


MY GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS A THUGGEE--ONE OF THOSE THEY HANGED, BUT HE HANDED DOWN THE SECRETS TO MY GRANDFATHER AND SO ON DOWN TO MY FATHER AND ME! AND TO THIS SECRET PLACE WE HAVE CARRIED OUR VICTIMS!

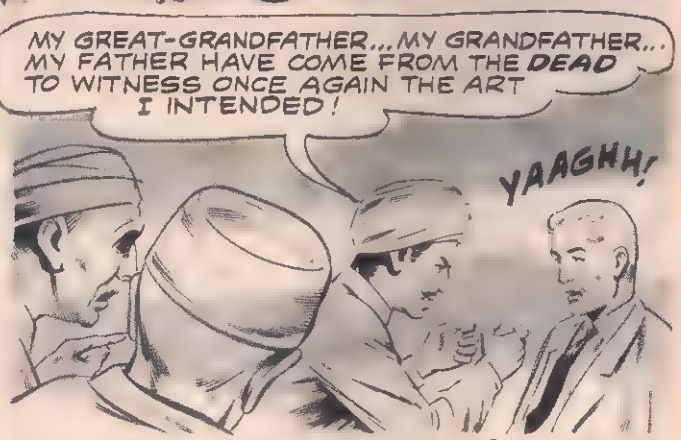
WHY DOES A MAN LIKE YOU ENJOY KILLING FOR A DEVIL IDOL LIKE THAT?
FOOL! KALI HERSELF WILL SHOVE YOUR WORDS DOWN YOUR THROAT!

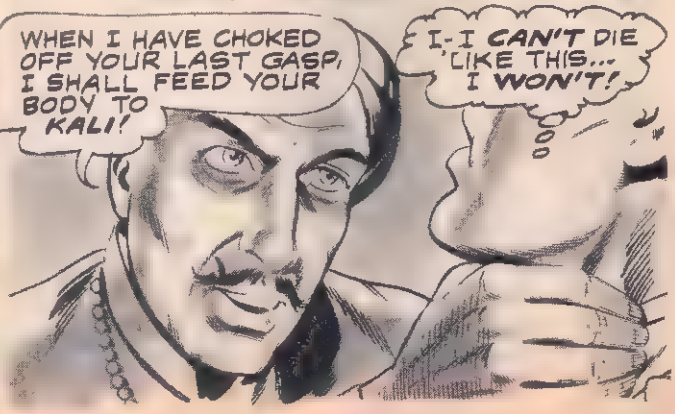

THE GOOR OF THE TUPONEE CHANGES OUR NATURE! LET ANY MAN ONCE TASTE OF THAT GOOR, AND HE WILL BE THUG!


MY FATHER MADE ME TASTE THE FATAL GOOR WHEN I WAS YET A MERE BOY... I COULD NEVER CHANGE!

NOW I REMEMBER... THOSE STRANGLE MURDERS IN COLLEGE THAT WERE NEVER EXPLAINED... IT WAS YOU!

THOSE WHO REST IN KALI, COME... COME TO SAVE ME!
IT--IT JUST CAN'T HAPPEN! UGH! WHAT GHOULS!


MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER... MY GRANDFATHER... MY FATHER HAVE COME FROM THE DEAD TO WITNESS ONCE AGAIN THE ART I INTENDED!
YAAGHH!

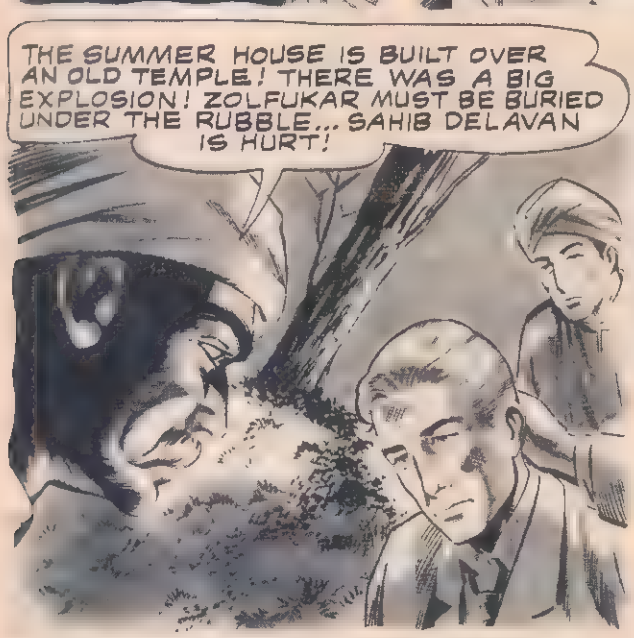

WHEN I HAVE CHOKED OFF YOUR LAST GASP, I SHALL FEED YOUR BODY TO KALI!
I-I CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS... I WON'T!

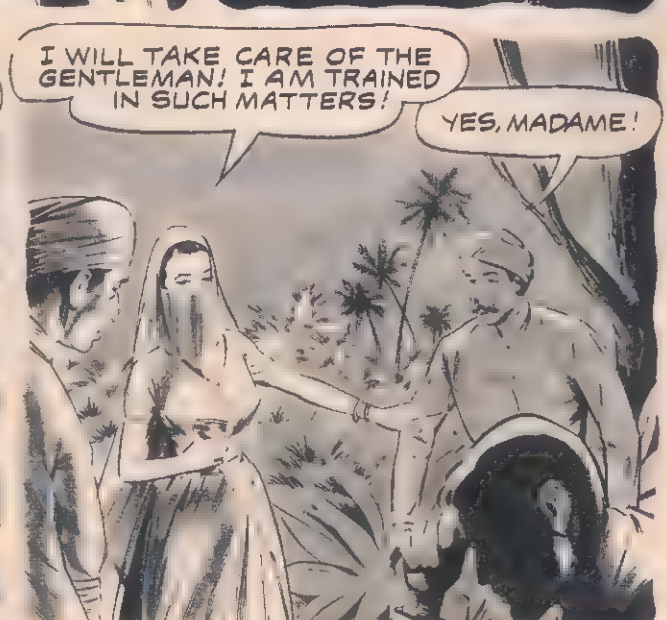
MAKING A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT TO REMAIN CONSCIOUS, CHARLES FORCED HIMSELF TO MOVE...
(GASP)... I GUESS YOU FORGOT I WAS JUDO CHAMP IN COLLEGE!
EEE! HELP ME, GREAT KALI... HELP!
NO GHOULS OR HIDEOUS IDOLS WILL STOP ME NOW!
THESE CREATURES YOU'VE SUMMONED FROM HELL... I'VE GOT A FEELING WHEN YOU GO... THEY'LL GO!
KALI... DO NOT FORSAKE ME!
AS CHARLES FLUNG THE BODY OF ZOLFUKAR AGAINST THE IDOL, THE UNDERGROUND SHRINE WAS FILLED WITH UGLY SCREAMS...
EOOWW!
IT... IT WAS THE ONLY WAY! IF I HAD NOT KILLED HIM, I WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST ANOTHER CORPSE!
I WAS RIGHT -- WHATEVER SUPERNATURAL IMAGES ZOLFUKAR HAD THE POWER TO CALL FORTH, DISAPPEARED WHEN HE DIED! B-BUT THAT IDOL... UGH... I MUST DESTROY IT!
THIS ROCK THAT WAS UNDER THE STEPS... IT SHOULD DO IT... IF I CAN LIFT IT!

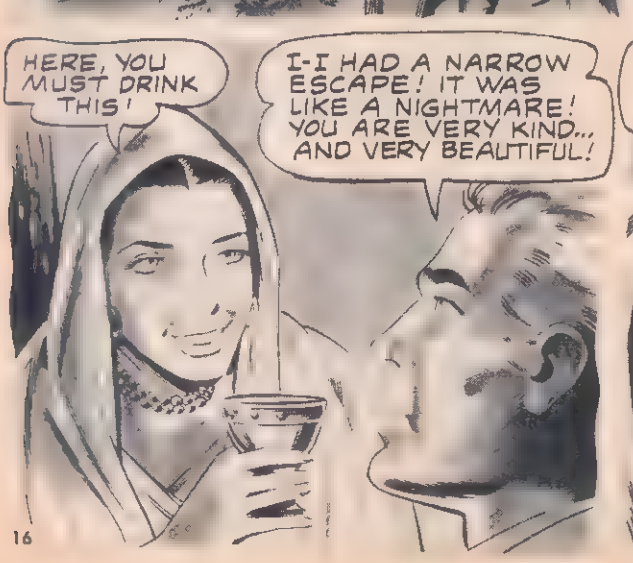
THIS SHOULD DO IT!

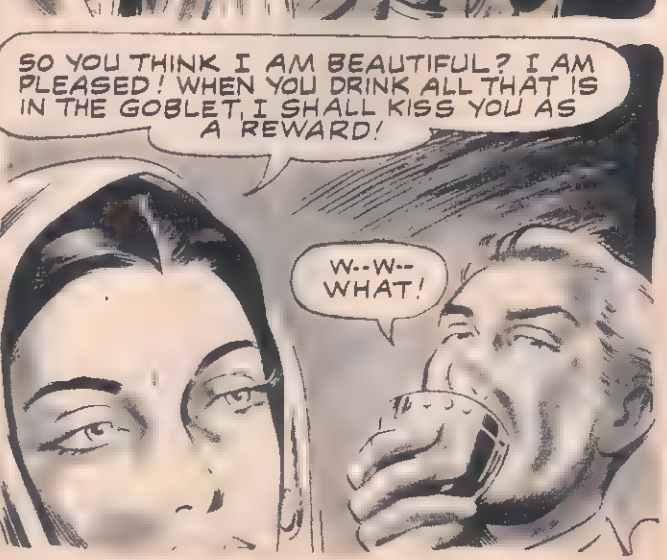
THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT... A NOISE LIKE THUNDER... THE IMAGE OF KALI FLEW APART INTO A MILLION PIECES!
EYAHHH!

AFTER THE FLASH... DARKNESS! WHEN CHARLES REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, HE WAS IN THE GARDENS...
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE MASTER... AND HIS FRIEND... SAHIB DELAVAN-- THE SUMMER HOUSE BURNS!


THE SUMMER HOUSE IS BUILT OVER AN OLD TEMPLE! THERE WAS A BIG EXPLOSION! ZOLFUKAR MUST BE BUIRED UNDER THE RUBBLE... SAHIB DELAVAN IS HURT!


I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE GENTLEMAN! I AM TRAINED IN SUCH MATTERS!
YES, MADAME!


HERE, YOU MUST DRINK THIS!
I-I HAD A NARROW ESCAPE! IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE! YOU ARE VERY KIND... AND VERY BEAUTIFUL!

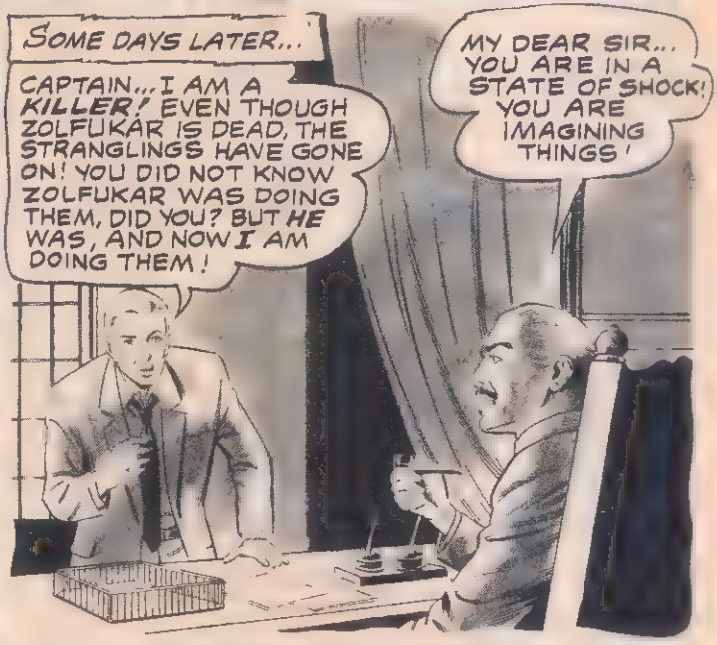

SO YOU THINK I AM BEAUTIFUL? I AM PLEASED! WHEN YOU DRINK ALL THAT IS IN THE GOBLET, I SHALL KISS YOU AS A REWARD!
W--W-- WHAT!

AH... YOU DRANK IT ALL! GOOD! YOU DESERVE THE KISS I AM ABOUT TO GIVE YOU!
SHE IS SO BEAUTIFUL... YET...

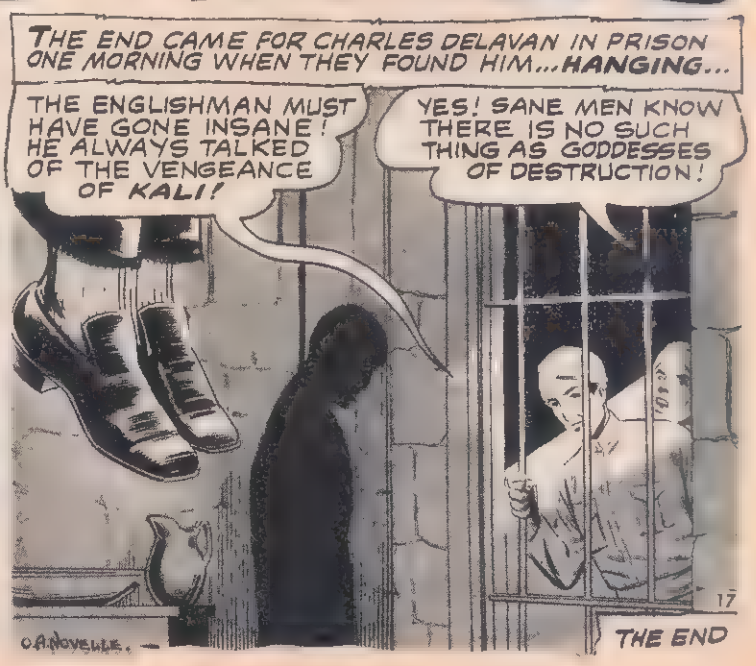
SUDDENLY... THE WARMTH OF THE KISS BLENDS LIP TO LIP... PROFOUND JOY FOR CHARLES, YET THERE WAS A STRANGE CHILL OF PERFECT HORROR WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES... AND SAW...

AND SO, CHARLES DELAVAN, YOU BELONG TO KALI! YOU DRANK OF THE GOOR! YOU WILL KILL FOR KALI! THE KISS OF KALI DOOMS YOU TO DESTRUCTION!
NO!

AAIEE... IT WAS KALI! NO... NO!
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?


SOME DAYS LATER...
CAPTAIN... I AM A KILLER! EVEN THOUGH ZOLFUKAR IS DEAD, THE STRANGLINGS HAVE GONE ON! YOU DID NOT KNOW ZOLFUKAR WAS DOING THEM, DID YOU? BUT HE WAS, AND NOW I AM DOING THEM!
MY DEAR SIR... YOU ARE IN A STATE OF SHOCK! YOU ARE IMAGINING THINGS!

FOOL! I BELONG TO KALI! I HAVE DRUNK THE GOOR! I MUST STRANGLE FOR KALI!


THE END CAME FOR CHARLES DELAVAN IN PRISON ONE MORNING WHEN THEY FOUND HIM... HANGING...
THE ENGLISHMAN MUST HAVE GONE INSANE! HE ALWAYS TALKED OF THE VENGEANCE OF KALI!
YES! SANE MEN KNOW THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS GODDESSES OF DESTRUCTION!
C.A. NOVELLE.

THE END

THE TIME ... ANCIENT ENGLAND DURING THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY. THE PLACE... A CASTLE SOMEWHERE NEAR LONDON. THE REASON ---

THE RACK

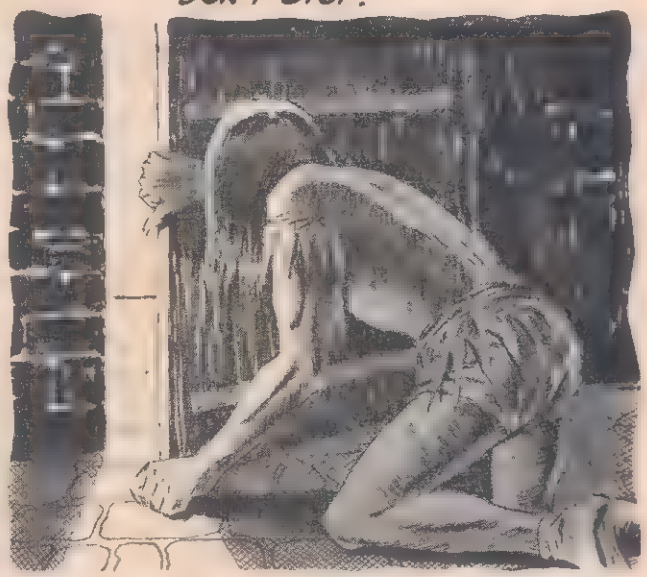
YOU HEARD HIM! THEY'LL BE BACK... BACK TO **TORTURE** YOU!

CAN'T... TALK... GOT... TO ESCAPE...

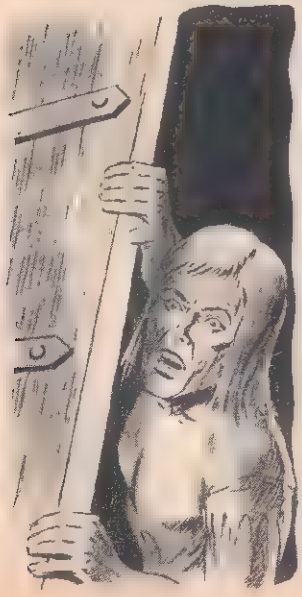
LOOK... **THE DOOR!** THEY FORGOT TO CLOSE IT... THERE'S YOUR ESCAPE!

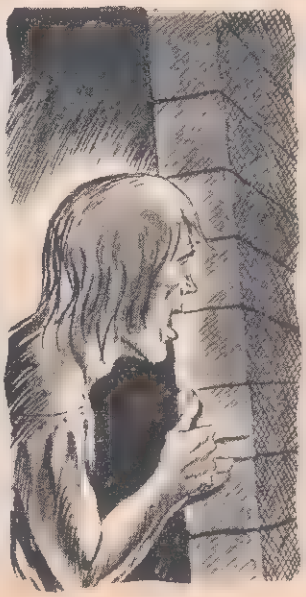
C'MON, YOU CAN MAKE IT! ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN MORE... **TORTURE!** TRY-- TRY-- **TRY!**

DON'T STOP NOW... YOU'VE MADE IT! **DON'T STOP!**



GO AHEAD... OPEN IT! YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE... THEY'LL ONLY **TORTURE** YOU IF YOU STAY IN THE CELL!

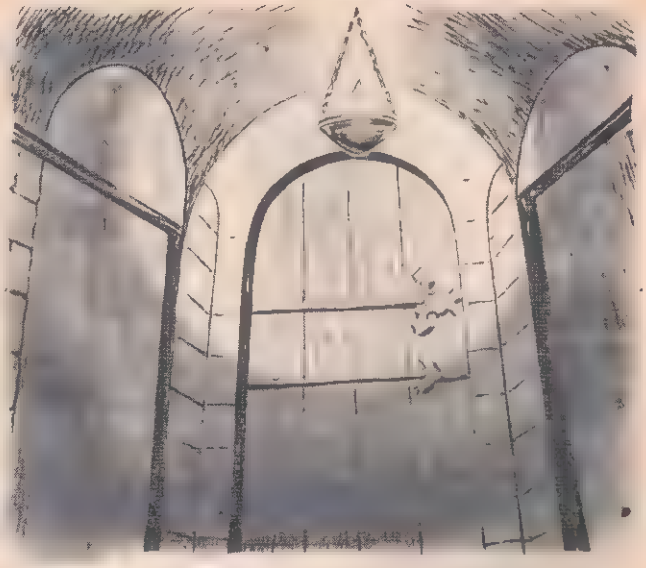




THAT'S IT! BUT DON'T STOP NOW... KEEP GOING... **KEEP GOING!**

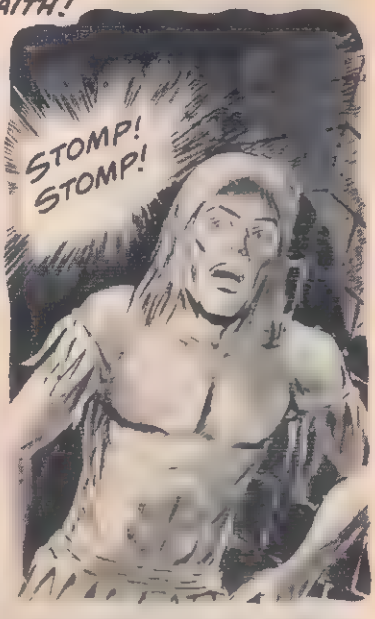
THAT'S WHERE YOU HAVE TO GO... ANY PLACE BUT THE **TORTURE** CHAMBER!

THE DOOR! THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE GOT TO GO... THAT'S WHERE **FREEDOM** LIES...

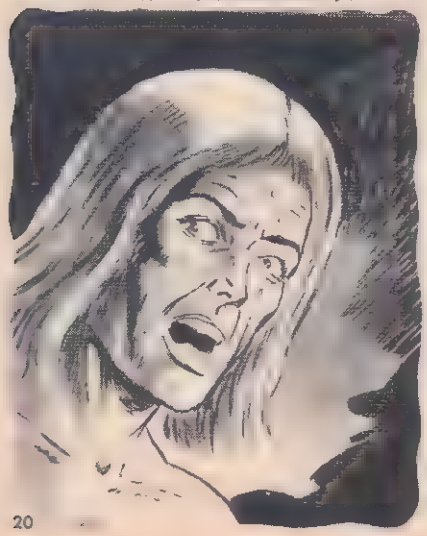


WHAT'S THAT? SOMEONE'S COMING! **HIDE!** DON'T LET THEM FIND YOU NOW! YOU'VE COME TO FAR NOW...

DON'T BREATHE! THEY DIDN'T SEE YOU... HAVE FAITH... **HAVE FAITH!**



YOU MADE IT... YOU MADE IT! THEY DIDN'T SEE YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE... THE DOOR... DON'T FORGET THE DOOR... TO **FREEDOM!**



THAT'S IT... NOT TOO MUCH FURTHER NOW... JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...

THEY'RE COMING BACK! HIDE! YOU'VE GOT TO HIDE! DON'T LET THEM CATCH YOU NOW! NOT WHEN **FREEDOM** IS SO CLOSE!

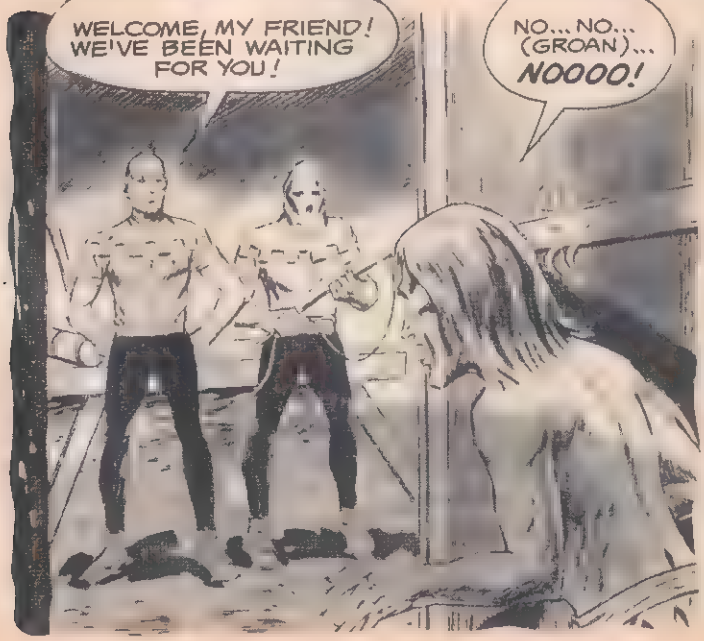
DON'T MOVE! THEY'LL SEE YOU! THE FOOLS, WHY DID THEY HAVE TO STOP RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?

THAT'S YOU THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT... HEAR THEM? THEY'LL BREAK YOU IF YOU GIVE THEM A CHANCE... DON'T DO IT! DON'T DO IT!

YOU CAN'T QUIT NOW... DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, SOMETHING IS WATCHING OVER YOU... THOSE GUARDS WERE LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU AND DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU...

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER... JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!

PUSH... HARDER! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR? FREEDOM!



BUT YOU HAVE BEEN TORTURED... MAYBE NOT BY MACHINES, BUT BY SOMETHING FAR MORE POWERFUL... YOUR OWN MIND!

The End

THE LIVING DEAD....

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON EARTH JOHN BLAINE FEARED DEATH! WHEN THE SECRET OF ETERNAL LIFE WAS REVEALED TO HIM — HE MURDERED TO RETAIN IT ONLY TO LEARN THAT THERE IS A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!

DEATH, HEAR MY PLEA... TAKE ME! PLEASE TAKE ME!

ERG HARA

JOHN BLAINE WAS A WEALTHY CORPORATE HEAD... BUT GOLD COULD NOT BUY THE ONE THING HE WANTED MOST... LIFE!

BRODY DIED LAST NIGHT! JOHN, WERE THE LAST SURVIVORS OF THE OLD CROWD! SOON WE'LL BE GONE!

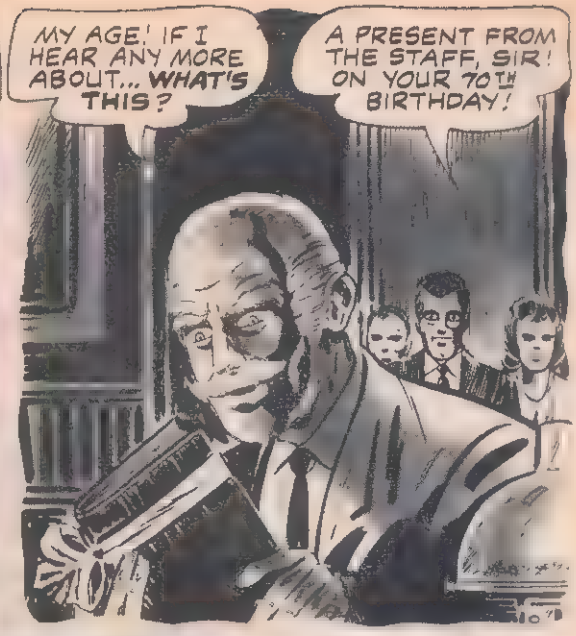
SHUT UP! DON'T REMIND ME OF MY AGE!

WHAT IN-- JOHN... FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE STOP!

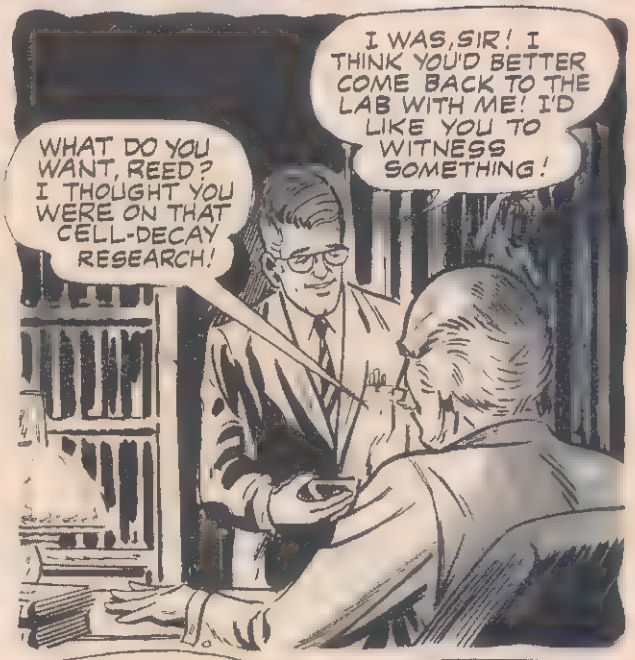
I'M NOT GOING TO DIE, I TELL YOU... I'M NOT!

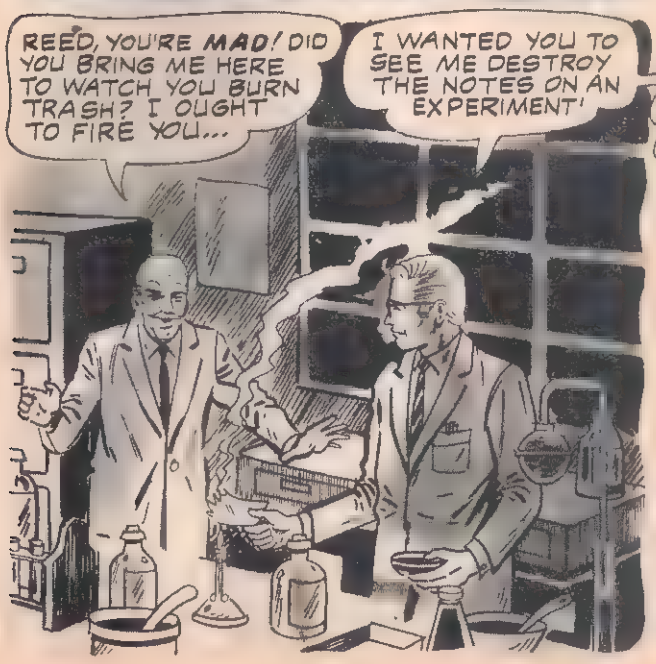
FOOLS! IDIOTS! VULTURES WAITING FOR ME TO DIE!
THAT'S NOT TRUE, SIR!

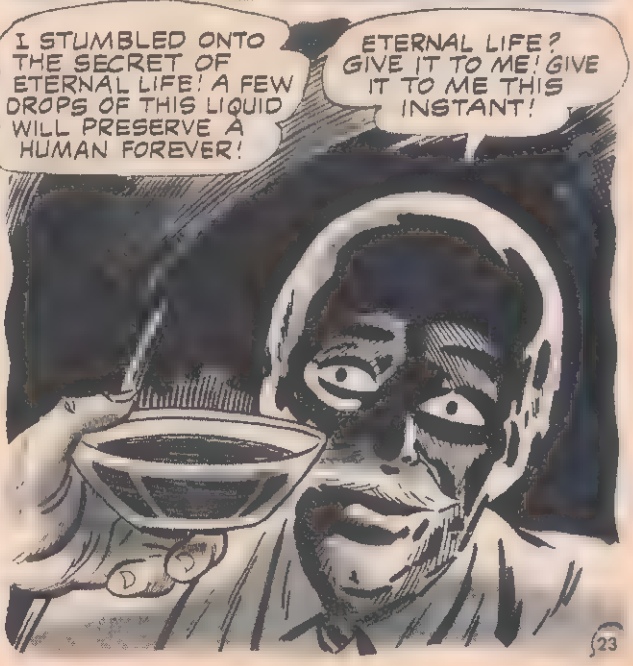
YOU ARE WELL PRESERVED FOR YOUR AGE, SIR!
MY AGE? YOU STUPID IDIOT...YOU'RE FIRED!

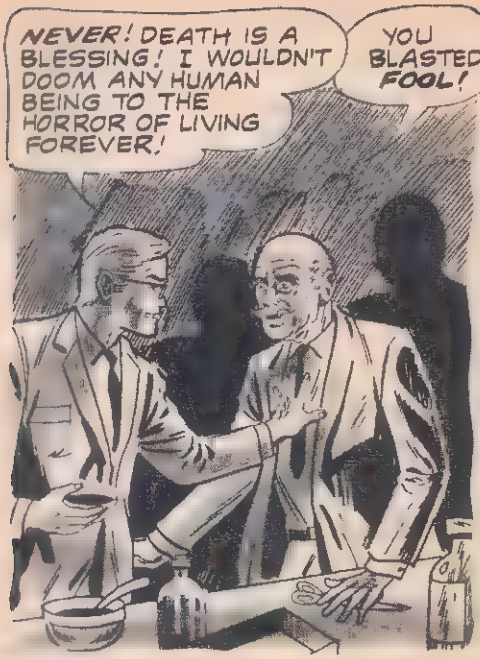

MY AGE! IF I HEAR ANY MORE ABOUT... WHAT'S THIS?
A PRESENT FROM THE STAFF, SIR! ON YOUR 70TH BIRTHDAY!

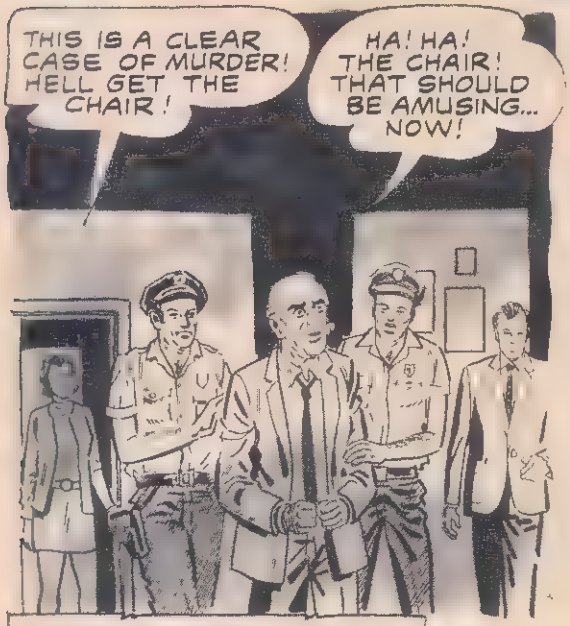
DUCK! HE'S THROWING THINGS AGAIN!
I DON'T HAVE BIRTHDAYS! GET OUT OF HERE, YOU...YOU MORONS!
HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND!


WHAT DO YOU WANT, REED? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON THAT CELL-DECAY RESEARCH!
I WAS, SIR! I THINK YOU'D BETTER COME BACK TO THE LAB WITH ME! I'D LIKE YOU TO WITNESS SOMETHING!

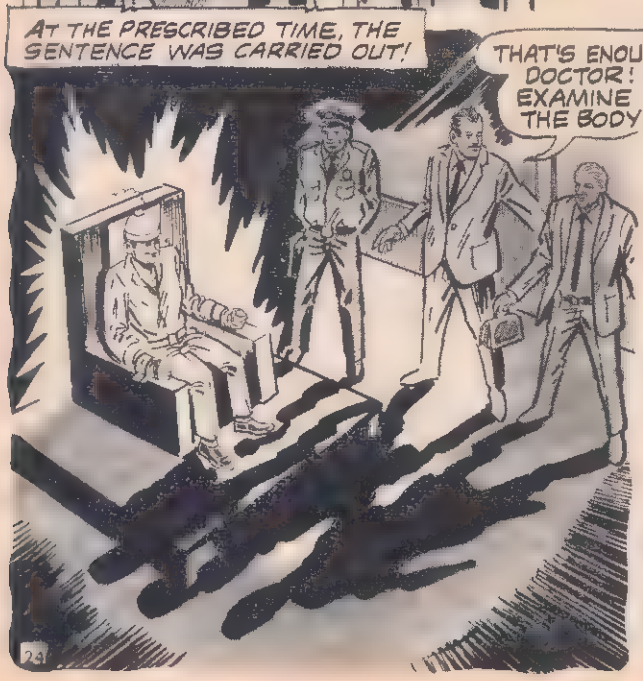

REED, YOU'RE MAD! DID YOU BRING ME HERE TO WATCH YOU BURN TRASH? I OUGHT TO FIRE YOU...
I WANTED YOU TO SEE ME DESTROY THE NOTES ON AN EXPERIMENT!

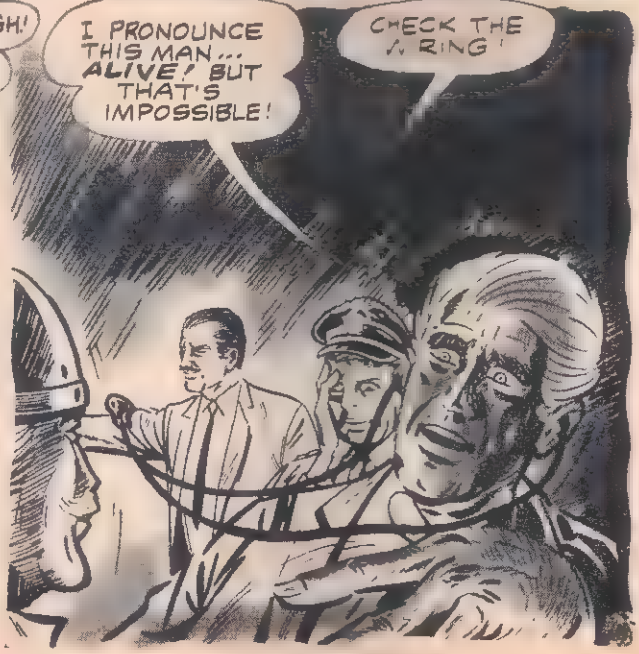

I STUMBLED ONTO THE SECRET OF ETERNAL LIFE! A FEW DROPS OF THIS LIQUID WILL PRESERVE A HUMAN FOREVER!
ETERNAL LIFE? GIVE IT TO ME! GIVE IT TO ME THIS INSTANT!





THE TRIAL WAS SWIFT AND JOHN BLAINE WAS EXAMINED, FOUND SANE, AND CONVICTED!





The WIRES WERE CHECKED! AGAIN THE MASSIVE VOLTAGE CRASHED THROUGH JOHN'S BODY...
WE'VE GIVEN HIM ENOUGH TO KILL AN ARMY AND HE JUST SITS THERE GRINNING!
TAKE HIM BACK TO THE DEATH CELL! GET THE GOVERNOR!
At THE EXECUTIVE MANSION...
THE PUBLIC MUSTN'T HEAR OF THIS! IT WOULD START A PANIC! PUT HIM IN SOME PRIVATE ASYLUM UNTIL WE CAN REACH A DECISION!
WATCH HIM CAREFULLY!
WHAT IS A FEW YEARS OF CONFINEMENT NOW? HA! I HAVE AN ETERNITY OF LIFE AHEAD!
I'LL NEED SOME THINGS, DOCTOR! SINCE I'M VERY WEALTHY, YOU CAN CHARGE THEM TO MY ACCOUNT!
WEALTHY? OH, NO...
OFFICIALLY YOU DIED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR... YOUR ESTATE NO LONGER BELONGS TO YOU! YOU HAVE NOTHING!
EEYAHH! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M RICH... RICH!
AW, WHAT'S THE USE... AND BESIDES I'VE AN ETERNITY TO RECOVER MY LOSSES! NO ONE CAN HARM ME... I'LL BE RICH... AND EVENTUALLY FREE!
WITH NOTHING TO LOSE, JOHN SETS HIS TRAP...
FOOLS! WHY SHOULD I SUBMIT TO LAWS? NOTHING CAN HARM ME!
HH
AAGHH

GET OUT OF MY WAY! NOBODY CAN STOP ME NOW!

I NEED MONEY FOR CLOTHING AND FOOD...AND A PLACE TO STAY! WHY NOT TAKE IT? GUNS CAN'T STOP ME!

I'LL TAKE THAT! AND DON'T WASTE BULLETS ON ME!
HEY...! IT'S A HOLD UP!
I'LL GET HIM!
BANG

RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART, TOM!

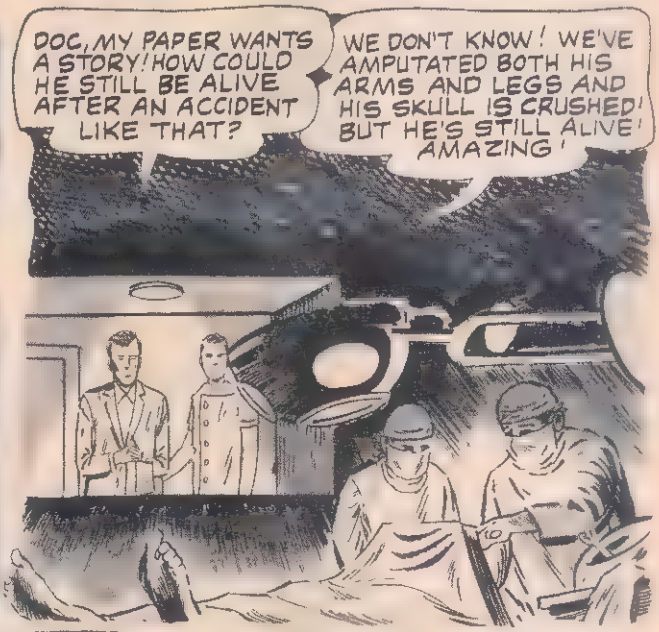
YOU DROPPED YOUR GUN! SECONDLY, YOUR BULLET HURT...AND I DON'T LIKE BEING HURT!
ARRGGH!
BANG BANG

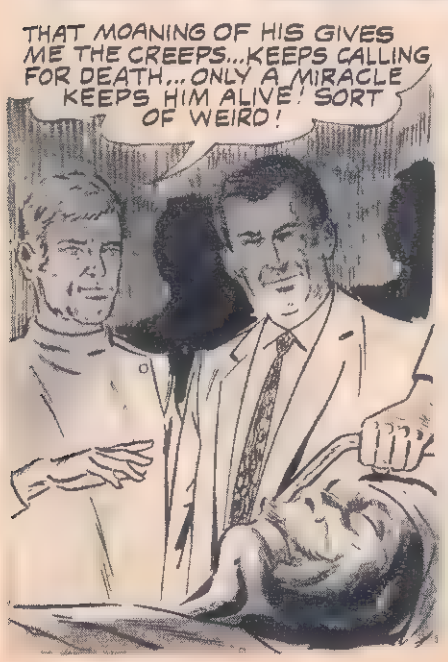
IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL STAND QUIETLY UNTIL I'M GONE!
LOOK OUT!

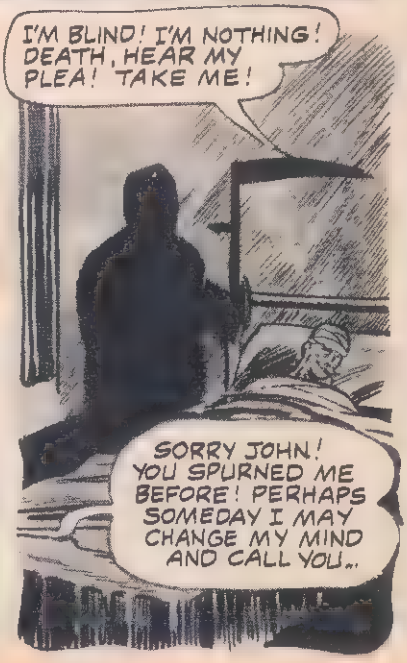
THAT CAR SLAMMED INTO HIM!
I TRIED TO WARN HIM!

I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE RAN RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I SAW HIM! BUT YOU WERE GOING AT LEAST FIFTY!

IS HE DEAD?
HE SHOULD BE, THE WAY HE'S SMASHED UP... BUT HE ISN'T!


DOC, MY PAPER WANTS A STORY! HOW COULD HE STILL BE ALIVE AFTER AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT?
WE DON'T KNOW! WE'VE AMPUTATED BOTH HIS ARMS AND LEGS AND HIS SKULL IS CRUSHED! BUT HE'S STILL ALIVE! AMAZING!


THAT MOANING OF HIS GIVES ME THE CREEPS...KEEPS CALLING FOR DEATH...ONLY A MIRACLE KEEPS HIM ALIVE! SORT OF WEIRD!


I'M BLIND! I'M NOTHING! DEATH, HEAR MY PLEA! TAKE ME!
SORRY JOHN! YOU SPURNED ME BEFORE! PERHAPS SOMEDAY I MAY CHANGE MY MIND AND CALL YOU..

BUT THERE'S NO HURRY! I HAVE THE REST OF ETERNITY TO DECIDE!

THE END

I'M **DYING** NOW... I'M **OLD** AND I'M **TIRED**... I'LL BE **GLAD** WHEN IT'S **OVER** AND I'M **DEAD!** I DON'T **WANT** TO **LIVE** ANYMORE... I'M SICK OF CARRYING...

THE SKELETON

YOU RUINED EVERYTHING! MY BROTHER AND I WERE HAPPY UNTIL YOU CAME TO TOWN... BUT NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT! I'M CHOPPING YOU INTO LITTLE PIECES, ELLEN!

I'VE LIVED [illegible] FOR THIRTY YEARS... [illegible] YEARS OF SECRECY... [illegible] YEARS OF FEAR... AND INSULTS AND JOBES...

HEY, WATCH OUT FELLAS! THERE'S THAT **CRAZY HERMIT!**

YEAH, HE'S BATTY ALL RIGHT, MY OLD MAN SAYS HE OUGHT TA BE ARRESTED!

YES, THAT'S ME, "THE **CRAZY HERMIT**"! BUT MY TIME IS QUICKLY RUNNING OUT AND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, I WANT TO TELL MY STORY...

YOU THERE, BOY! GO INTO TOWN AND FETCH THE DOCTOR

WHO **M-ME?**

YE BETTER DO WHAT HE WANTS... OR HE MIGHT HEX YA!

THE BOY RAN DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD TOWN AND NOW I'M WAITING... WAITING...
HE-HE'S GOT TO COME... GOT TO! I CAN'T DIE WITH THIS ON MY CONSCIENCE!
JUST AS I'M READY TO GIVE UP IN DESPAIR, I HEAR A KNOCK ON MY CABIN DOOR...
YES, SIR! I UNDERSTAND YOU SENT FOR ME! NOTHING SERIOUS, I HOPE!
IT AIN'T DOCTORIN' I WANT, MISTER... JUST STEP INSIDE AND LISTEN TO ME!
HE LOOKS AT ME STRANGELY BUT COMES INSIDE THE CABIN...
FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAN, LET SOME LIGHT IN! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
NO! I DON'T LIKE LIGHT! LOOK, DOC, I AIN'T GOT MUCH TIME--SO PLEASE LEMME SPILL MY STORY!
IT BEGAN THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO IN A SMALL VILLAGE 200 MILES FROM HERE... I LIVED WITH MY BROTHER AND TOGETHER WE RAN A BUTCHER SHOP...
'MORNIN', BOYS! ANY NICE VEAL TODAY?
SURE THING, MRS. GEORGE!
WE GOT CHOPS AND CUTLETS BOTH!
ME AND AMOS GOT ALONG FINE! WE WORKED TOGETHER AND LIVED TOGETHER... THERE WASN'T A DAY IN OUR LIVES THAT WE WEREN'T TOGETHER...
HOW ABOUT GOIN' OVER TO THE NEWTON FAIR SUNDAY, AMOS? MEBBE HAVE SOME FUN!
YOU THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT HAVIN' A GOOD TIME, HENRY! YOU OUGHTTA WORRY MORE ABOUT BUSINESS!
AMOS WAS MORE SERIOUS MINDED THAN ME... AND HE HAD A TERRIBLE TEMPER...
HENRY, YOU STUPID FOOL, THIS MEAT'S SPOILED, YOU FORGOT TO PUT IT IN THE ICE-CHEST!
I--I MEANT TO...
YOU MEANT TO... THIRTY DOLLARS WASTED BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
N-NOW, AMOS, TRY TO CONTROL YOURSELF!

BUT EXCEPT FOR THE TIMES WHEN AMOS MADE A FUSS WE GOT ALONG PRETTY GOOD... UNTIL ONE SATURDAY MORNING RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...
YES MA'AM, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
AND BEFORE AMOS OR ME COULD DO ANYTHING SHE FELL OVER IN A DEAD FAINT! WE CALLED DOC BROWN RIGHT AWAY...
WHAT IS IT, DOC? WHAT'S WRONG?
SHE WAS STAGGERING LIKE SHE WAS DRUNK!
NO, AMOS, NOT DRUNK... JUST HALF-DEAD FROM LACK OF FOOD! THIS POOR CHILD HASN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT FOR DAYS!
I THINK I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER RIGHT THEN! SHE LOOKED SO TINY AND HELPLESS... AMOS WAS FURIOUS AND AFTER THE DOC LEFT...
WHAT ARE YOU GRININ' ABOUT, YOU FOOL? JUST WHAT ARE WE GONNO DO WITH HER ...SHE CAN'T STAY HERE!
SHE'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE! WE CAN'T PUT HER OUT IN THE COLD!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I DIDN'T GIVE IN TO AMOS! ELLEN STAYED WITH US AND SHE GREW STRONGER...
HERE YOU BE, ELLEN, YER DINNER! CHICKEN AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS!
HENRY, YOU'RE SO GOOD TO ME THAT I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
DON'T SAY NOTHING, ELLEN... JEST GET BETTER!
STOP YAKING, HENRY! WE GOT WORK TO DO, HURRY UP!
NO, AMOS DIDN'T LIKE ELLEN STAYING WITH US... AND HE NEVER STOPPED YELLING ABOUT IT...
AIN'T YOU GOT NO HEART AT ALL AMOS? THE GIRL'S SICK, SHE NEEDS HELP!
ELLEN, DRINK YER MILK... ELLEN, EAT YOUR DINNER... WHAT THE DEVIL'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, HENRY? YER ACTIN' LIKE A LOVE SICK PUPPY!
WELL, SHE'S HAD ALL THE HELP SHE'S GONNA GET FROM US! SHE AIN'T SICK NO MORE! I'M TELLIN' HER TO GET OUT NEXT WEEK!
NO, AMOS! I WON'T LET YOU!

YOU CAN'T STOP ME, HENRY... AND I'M WARNING YA, DON'T TRY! I OWN HALF OF EVERYTHING... AND IF I DON'T WANT HER, SHE GOES!
FOR A MINUTE I FELT TRAPPED AND DESPERATE HOW COULD I LET HER GO? AND THEN I FOUND THE ANSWER... I KNEW HOW I COULD KEEP HER...
YOU'RE WRONG, AMOS! THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO... IF SHE'S MY WIFE!
WIFE?
IT WAS A CRAZY WILD IDEA... WHAT MADE ME THINK SHE'D MARRY ME? AMOS ALMOST LAUGHED HIMSELF SICK AT THE THOUGHT...
HA HA HA HA HA... I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WAS A FOOL, HENRY! HA HA HA HA HA! THAT GIRL AIN'T GONNA MARRY YOU! HA HA HA HA HA!
MEBBE NOT... BUT I'M TRYIN'!
AMOS WAS WITH ME WHEN I ASKED ELLEN TO BE MY WIFE...
AND I KNOW I AIN'T GOT MUCH TO OFFER, ELLEN, BUT... BUT I LOVE YOU AND I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!
YOU'RE THE GENTLEST, KINDEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN! I'D BE PROUD TO BE YOUR WIFE!
YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT WHAT YOU DO, HENRY... AND I SAY NO!
THERE AIN'T NO WAY YOU CAN STOP US, AMOS!
I KNEW WHY AMOS WAS UPSET AND I TRIED TO CALM HIM DOWN...
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, AMOS, WE BEEN TOGETHER ALL OUR LIVES... JEST THE TWO OF US! BUT THINGS WON'T BE MUCH DIFFERENT NOW... EXCEPT ELLEN WILL BE WITH US!
GO ON, MAN! WHAT HAPPENED? DID AMOS FINALLY ACCEPT ELLEN AS YOUR WIFE?
NO, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO...

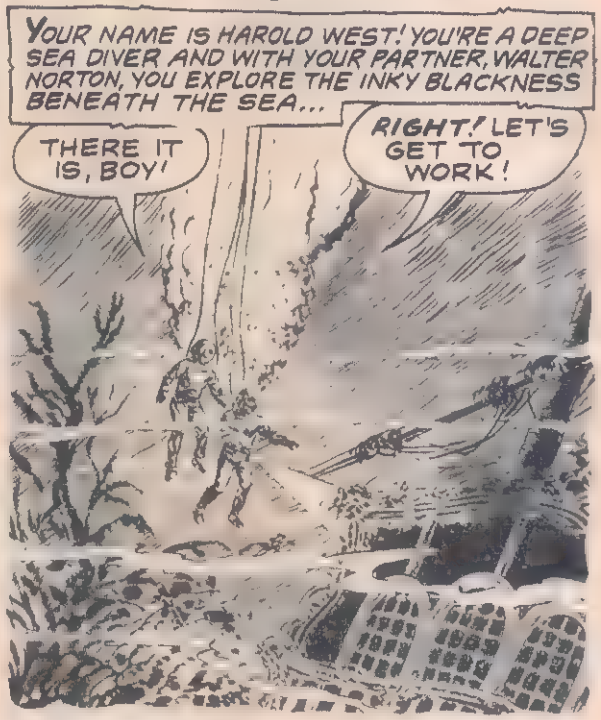
WE PLANNED TO BE MARRIED IN A MONTH AND WHEN AMOS SAID NOTHING MORE I THOUGHT HE'D GIVEN UP THE FIGHT!
SHE'S A BEAUTY AIN'T SHE, AMOS? I'M A LUCKY MAN...
YEAH, SURE... SURE...
BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT AMOS NEVER GAVE UP...ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING...
C'MON, HENRY, WAKE UP! WE GOT WORK TO DO!
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AMOS? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF...
WHEN I TRIED TO MOVE I COULDN'T... MY HANDS WERE TIED BEHIND MY BACK...
NOW TAKE IT EASY, BROTHER.. I'M GONNA SAVE YOU FROM MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU UP TO AMOS? UNTIE MY HANDS!
HE PULLED ME DOWN THE HALL INTO ELLEN'S ROOM ...SUDDENLY, I BEGAN TO FEEL A SICKENING TERROR CREEP INTO THE PIT OF MY STOMACH...
AMOS, YOU'VE LOST YER MIND! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING, BUT...
GIT UP, ELLEN, I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU!
HE FORCED US OUT THE BACK DOOR AND INTO THE REAR ENTRANCE TO THE SHOP!
I'M WARNING YOU, AMOS, IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO HER... I'LL KILL YOU!
I WAS HELPLESS, UNABLE TO STOP HIM AS HE PICKED UP A MEAT CLEAVER AND STARTED TOWARD ELLEN...
AMOS, D-DON'T L-LET ME GO!
YOU RUINED EVERYTHING! HENRY AND I WERE HAPPY UNTIL YOU CAME HERE! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
YAEEE
HAHA

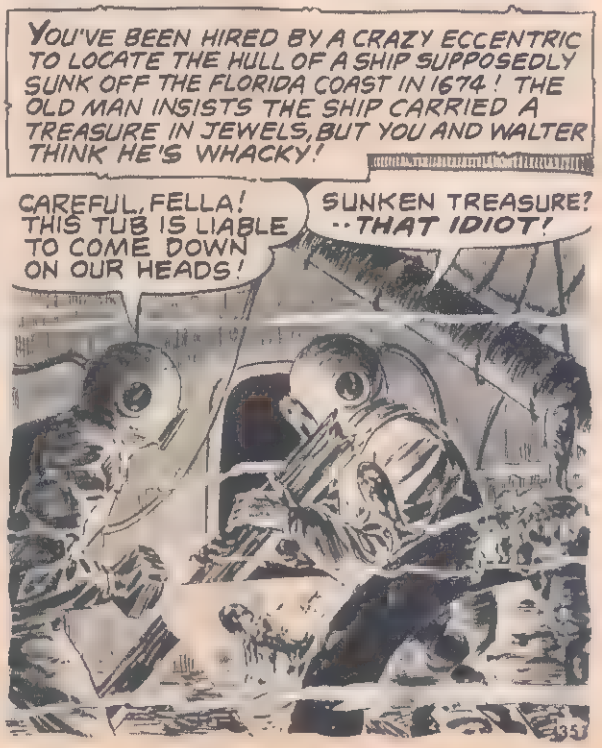
THE CLEAVER ROSE AND FELL AGAIN AND AGAIN...
ELLEN... ELLEN... (SOB) M-MY SWEET LITTLE ELLEN...
I BURIED HER BEHIND THE HOUSE...
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR THIS, AMOS... SOMEDAY WHEN YOU'RE LEAST EXPECTING IT!
YOU'RE JUST BITTER NOW YOU'LL GET OVER IT!
THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS I EVER SPOKE TO AMOS... FROM THAT DAY ON I ACTED AS THOUGH HE DIDN'T EXIST...
FOR PETE SAKE, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP THIS UP?
TALK TO ME!
I'D LIKE TO DO TO HIM WHAT HE'S DOING TO THAT CHICKEN... JUST ONE QUICK BLOW...
AND FINALLY ONE NIGHT I COULDN'T COULD STAND IT ANY LONGER...
THIS IS GONNA BE FER ELLEN AMOS...
H-HENRY WHAT ARE YOU... HENRY... NO!

BUT I DIDN'T ANSWER HIM... I JUST KEPT MY HANDS AROUND HIS THROAT AND SQUEEZED HARDER... AND... HARDER...
FER ELLEN... FER ELLEN...
HENRY... LEMME GO...STOP, I'M CHOKING...
HENRY... HENRY...
AFGGHHH
I STOPPED WHEN I GOT HERE! I TOOK THIS CABIN AND I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE!
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL THE POLICE WHEN AMOS KILLED ELLEN? AND WHY HAVE YOU LIVED LIKE A HERMIT? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF THIS CABIN IN THIRTY-YEARS!
I LEFT TOWN THAT NIGHT BY WAGON AND DROVE AND DROVE...
FASTER FASTER!
WHAT TRUTH? WHAT IN GOD'S NAME... OH, NO! (GASP)
YES, NOW YOU CAN SEE WHY I WAS TRAPPED... AMOS AND I WERE SIAMESE TWINS!
IF I'D CALLED IN THE POLICE I'D HAVE SUFFERED, TOO! I WAS TRAPPED! I DIDN'T DARE LEAVE THIS CABIN... IF I HAD, EVERYONE WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE TRUTH!
The End

SO, YOU'RE **GLUTTONS** FOR **PUNISHMENT**, EH, CHILDREN? JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH TERROR TO FILL YOUR **GHOSTLY** APPETITES? WELL, IF THIS **FEAR-FILLED** SAGA OF SUSPENSE DOESN'T SATISFY YOU **NOTHING** WILL! WE TAKE YOO **100 FEET** BELOW WATER TO PRESENT A TALE CALLED...

THE SLIMY CORPSE





YOU MAKE YOUR WAY INTO THE HOLD OF THE VESSEL...

NO SENSE WASTING MUCH TIME LOOKING FOR...

HEY, HAROLD! LOOK...A CHEST!

YOU BOTH GLIDE SLOWLY TO THE ANCIENT SEA CHEST... AND AS YOUR FINGERS GRIP ITS SLIMY LID, YOU FEEL YOUR HEART START TO POUND...

GOOD GRIEF, WALTER, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE...

I DON'T KNOW... BUT FOR PETE'S SAKE, OPEN IT! OPEN IT!

TREMBLING, YOU SHOVE BACK THE HEAVY LID... AND THERE, BEFORE YOUR EYES IS A FORTUNE IN GEMS!

HOLY COW!

YIPES! LOOK AT 'EM!

THE FORTUNE OF MIDAS IS AT YOUR FEET, ISN'T IT, HAROLD? YOU FEEL LIKE LAUGHING, DANCING... BUT THEN WALTER'S VOICE BREAKS THROUGH YOU...

THE OLD MAN PROMISED US A BONUS IF WE FOUND IT! THIS OUGHTA BE WORTH AT LEAST A THOUSAND APIECE!

YES, HAROLD... ALL YOU'RE GOING TO GET IS A LOUSY LITTLE BONUS!

A THOUSAND BUCKS! WHAT'S THAT? THIS STUFF IS WORTH AT LEAST TWO MILLION! USE YOUR HEAD, WALT!

WHATTA YOU MEAN?

WE CAN KEEP ALL OF THIS FOR OURSELVES! THE OLD MAN DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WE FOUND THE STUFF!

HEY! YOU'RE RIGHT, HAROLD!

And SO, AS YOU'RE PULLED TO THE SURFACE YOU LAY YOUR PLAN...

WE'LL TELL HIM THE CHEST WAS THERE... BUT EMPTY! THAT SOMEBODY BEAT HIM TO IT!

YEAH, THEN WE'LL WAIT A MONTH OR SO... AND DIVE AT NIGHT FOR THE JEWELS!

OLD JACOBY HOWARD IS DISAPPOINTED WHEN HE HEARS THE NEWS! HE SUNK HIS LAST DIME INTO THIS VENTURE... AND NOW...

EMPTY? IT--IT WAS THERE-- EMPTY?

THAT'S RIGHT, MR. HOWARD! CLEANED OUT! TOUGH LUCK, SIR!

AS YOU PREPARE TO GO HOME...

BY THE WAY, WALT... YOU BETTER NOT MENTION ANY OF THIS TO ELLIE! YOU KNOW HOW WOMEN ARE PRONE TO TALK!

GOOD IDEA! HAROLD, I WON'T SAY A WORD!

ELLIE IS WALTER'S WIFE... BUT YOU CAN'T GET USED TO THE IDEA ELLIE WAS YOUR GIRL ONCE! REMEMBER, HAROLD??

HAPPY ENGAGEMENT, DARLING! AND WITHIN A YEAR IT'LL BE HAPPY WEDDING!

OH, YES, HAROLD, YES!

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE SHE MET WALTER! HE HAD BEEN WORKING IN SOUTH AMERICA AND THEY MET A FEW MONTHS AFTER YOUR ENGAGEMENT PARTY...

I TOLD YOU, YOU'D LIKE HIM, ELLIE! GREAT GUY, ISN'T HE? MY BEST FRIEND!

HE'S WONDERFUL, HAROLD!

HEY, CUT IT OUT! YOU TWO ARE EMBARRASSING ME!

And WHEN ELLIE GREW COLDER TO YOU, YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE REASON, DID YOU, HAROLD? YOU WERE BLIND AS ONLY A MAN IN LOVE CAN BE...

ELLIE, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO FUNNY LATELY!

ER... I'VE GOT A COLD AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH IT!

And WHEN THE TELEGRAM CAME IT WAS A BOLT FROM OUT OF THE BLUE...

WHAT? OH, MY GOD.. NO... NO!!!

TELEGRAM

FORGIVE US HAROLD. WE WERE MARRIED TONIGHT. ELLIE AND WALTER.

BUT THAT WAS OVER TWO YEARS AGO... NOW WHEN YOU HAVE DINNER WITH WALTER AND ELLIE, YOU TRY TO MASK YOUR FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT AND BETRAYAL!

THIS GAL SURE CAN COOK, EH, HAROLD?

YEAH... SHE'S A FINE COOK: SWELL!

YOU WATCH THE LAUGHING PAIR AND FORMULATE A VINDICTIVE, REVENGEFUL PLAN...

WE'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE, HAROLD!

TAKE YOUR TIME, BOY!

WHY NOT? I CAN WORK IT OUT TO THE **VAST** DETAIL! PLAN IT **PERFECTLY!**

LATER, WHEN YOU LEAVE...

REMEMBER, WALT... NOT A WORD TO ELLIE! AND YOU'D BETTER GET SOME **EXCUSES** READY FOR WHEN YOU HAVE TO BE GONE NIGHTS!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, FOR WHEN WE GO **DIVING!** OKAY, I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

IT'S A MONTH LATER AND NOW YOU AND WALTER ARE COMPLETING YOUR FIFTH TRIP DOWN TO THE TREASURE...

THAT'S ABOUT **HALF!** FIVE OR SIX MORE NIGHTS AND WE'LL BE FINISHED!

BOY, I SURE HOPE SO! ELLIE'S BEGINNING TO LOOK SUSPICIOUS!

YOU AND WALTER ALTERNATE DIVING AND ON THE ELEVENTH NIGHT, WALTER MAKES THE LAST TRIP...

OKAY, BOY, THIS IS IT! I'M AT THE SHIP AND GETTING ALL THE REST OF THE STUFF!

FINE, WALTER, FINE! AND YOU'RE RIGHT... **THIS IS IT!**

YOU SLASH THROUGH WALTER'S LIFE GIVING AIR HOSE...

SO LONG, OLD PAL! TCH... TCH... A **PITY** TO HAVE TO GIVE UP THAT LAST LOAD, BUT NO SENSE BEING A **PIG!**

And BELOW, AS HIS AIR SUPPLY QUICKLY DWINDLES...

HAROLD! M-MY AIR IS GETTING THIN! CHECK THE LINE! QUICK!

SOMETHING'S WRONG, HAROLD! PULL ME UP! PULL ME UP!!

NOTHING'S WRONG, WALT! HA! HA! I JUST CUT YOUR LINE!

WALTER'S CRIES BECOME WEAKER AND WEAKER...

H-HARLO...(CHOKE) P-PLEASE...PLEASE... FOR--(CHOKE)... ELLIE'S SAKE...

THAT'S JUST **WHY** I'M DOING IT, BOY... FOR **ELLIE!** SHE'S GOING TO BE MINE AGAIN, WALT... JUST LIKE SHE **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN! HAPPY LANDING, **SUCKER!**

AND WHEN WALTER'S LAST MOANS ECHO ACROSS THE DARK WATERS YOU HAUL UP THE END OF HIS AIR HOSE! WALTER IS DEAD AND **YOU** ARE A RICH MAN...

I IMAGINE ELLIE WON'T HAVE **TOO** HARD A TIME FORGETTING WALT WITH A FEW OF THESE BAUBLES AROUND HER NECK!

IT'S FIVE YEARS LATER NOW AND EVERYTHING HAS GONE EXACTLY AS YOU PLANNED, HASN'T IT, HAROLD? AFTER AN INTENSIVE SEARCH, WALTER'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS LISTED AS "OFFICIALLY DEAD" AND ELLIE MARRIED YOU...

I'LL BE HOME FROM THE OFFICE EARLY, DARLING! DON'T FORGET TONIGHT'S THE BIG PARTY AT THE PLAZA ROYAL!

I'LL BE READY, DEAR!

YES, THINGS HAVE GONE SMOOTHLY! YOU'VE OPENED A LARGE SALVAGE COMPANY AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T NEED THE MONEY, THE BUSINESS HAS DONE WELL...

...AND IN REGARD TO YOUR LETTER OF THE 14TH, I FEEL WE CAN SUBMIT A BID WHICH WILL...

YOU AND ELLIE HAVE A TWENTY ROOM HOUSE IN THE CITY AND A TEN ROOM "COTTAGE" AT THE BEACH WHERE YOU SPENT YOUR SUMMERS... WHO CAN DENY THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER, HAROLD?

FIVE YEARS AGO **TONIGHT** I KILLED HIM! HA! HA! YOU MIGHT SAY IT WAS MY ANNIVERSARY! WASN'T THREE **MILES** FROM HERE... OVER BY THE OLD PIERSON DOCKS!

BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO AND YOU SMILE AS YOU PREPARE TO TAKE YOUR EVENING DIP!

HAROLD, HONEY, DON'T STAY IN TOO LONG! YOU KNOW HOW BAD THE UNDERTOW IS AT THIS TIME!

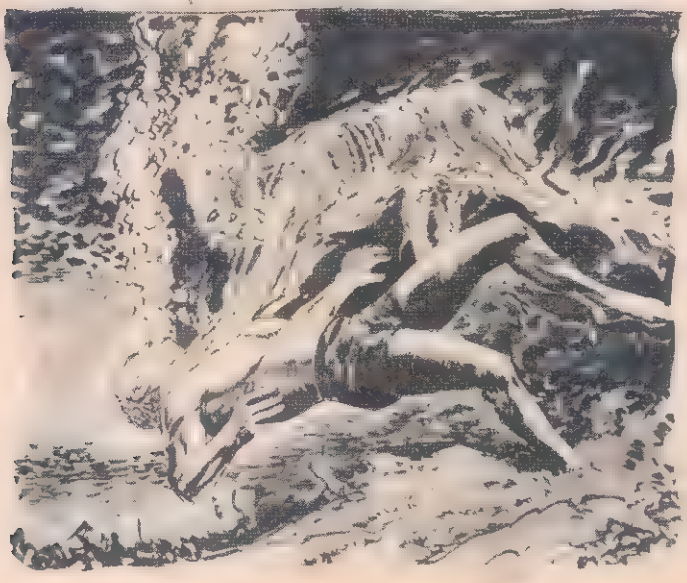
DON'T WORRY, ELLIE... I KNOW THESE WATERS VERY WELL!

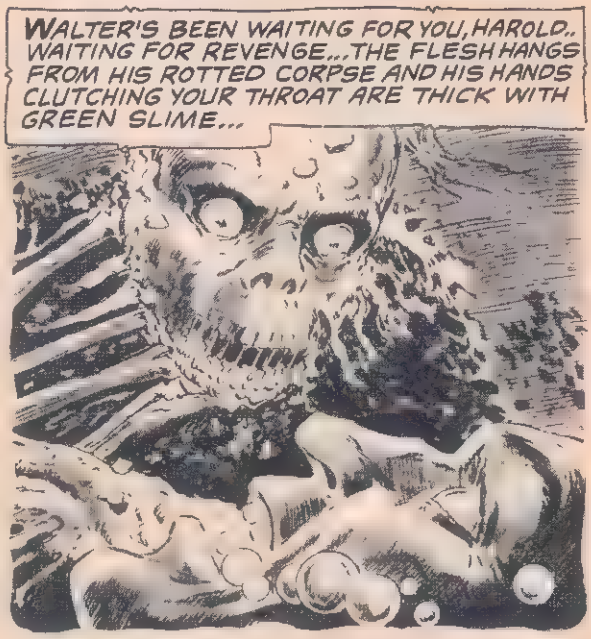
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SWIM BEFORE SUPPER!

And WHEN YOU BEGIN TO TIRE YOU FLOAT ON YOUR BACK... BUT WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S THAT GRABBING HOLD OF YOU ???
HEY! WHAT THE...

YOU'RE BEING PULLED DOWN INTO THE WATER AND WRAPPED AROUND YOUR STOMACH LIKE A STEEL VISE ARE THE HANDS AND ARMS OF...
A SKELETON! NO, THIS IS CRAZY! I--I--

BUT YOU CAN'T TALK NOW... YOU'RE UNDERWATER, STRUGGLING FOR YOUR LIFE... AGAINST A CORPSE!
WALTER! (CHOKE) GLUBB...


YOU'RE BEING WRENCHED DOWNWARD... YOU CAN'T BREATHE AND WALTER IS LAUGHING IN YOUR FACE!


WALTER'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, HAROLD.. WAITING FOR REVENGE... THE FLESH HANGS FROM HIS ROTTED CORPSE AND HIS HANDS CLUTCHING YOUR THROAT ARE THICK WITH GREEN SLIME...

YOU'RE GROWING WEAKER AND WEAKER.. THE STRUGGLE IS ALMOST OVER, HAROLD... EVERYTHING IS ALMOST OVER --YOU'RE DYING...

And NOW YOU'RE DEAD... AS THE WATER FILLS YOUR LUNGS AND YOU SLUMP TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA THE CORPSE ALSO CEASES TO MOVE... THE TWO OF YOU LIE SIDE-BY-SIDE... PARTNERS AGAIN IN DEATH!
THE END

WITCH or WIDOW

HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH— HERE IS THE **REAL** STORY OF THE OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE! HEE-HEE-HEE!

YES, FOLKS... THERE REALLY **WAS** AN OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE! BUT THE REAL, THE TRUE STORY, ISN'T QUITE THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS HEARD IT! SO NOW, IF YOU WANT THE **TRUTH**, READ ABOUT THE OLD GIRL AND **THE SEVEN SINS...**

BACK IN 1902, IN A CERTAIN LITTLE TOWN IN NEW ENGLAND, THERE WAS A VERY RICH MAN NAMED PHILIP WUXTON...

PHILIP WUXTON WAS ALSO ECCENTRIC! HE BUILT A MANSION FOR HIS NEW BRIDE—IN THE SHAPE OF A SHOE...

AND JESSIE WUXTON DID LOVE IT—OR HER HUSBAND'S MONEY! ANYWAY...

DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT, JESSIE? YOU DON'T THINK I'M CRAZY THE WAY EVERYBODY ELSE DOES?

PHILIP! YOU MUSTN'T THINK SUCH THINGS! I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY IN OUR— SHOE!

AND SO THEY WERE—UNTIL...

I HEAR PHILIP WUXTON IS DYING! AND MAYBE IT'S A MERCY—AT LEAST HE DIDN'T END UP IN AN ASYLUM!

THEY SAY HE WON'T LIVE THROUGH THE NIGHT! SOME MYSTERIOUS DISEASE!

AND SO HE WAS BURIED...

...AND SO EARTH RETURNS TO EARTH! DUST TO DUST! ALL THAT IS MORTAL OF PHILIP WUXTON...

SOB— SOB!

BUT EVEN THEN, FOLKS THOUGHT THINGS JUST A LITTLE QUEER...

FUNNY ABOUT HIM! PAPER NEVER DID SAY WHAT HE DIED OF...

AND SHE WON'T TALK! SHE HASN'T SPOKEN TO A SOUL SINCE HE DIED!

TWO YEARS PASSED, AND JESSIE WUXTON NEVER LEFT HER— SHOE...

SEEMS A SHAME FOR A BODY TO SHUT THEMSELVES UP LIKE THAT! JESSIE IS SO YOUNG AND PRETTY!

YES, IT DOES! BUT SHE NEVER STIRS! OLD MR. MASON, HER LAWYER, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER GOES TO SEE HER!

THEN ONE MORNING, THE WHOLE TOWN IS SHOCKED...

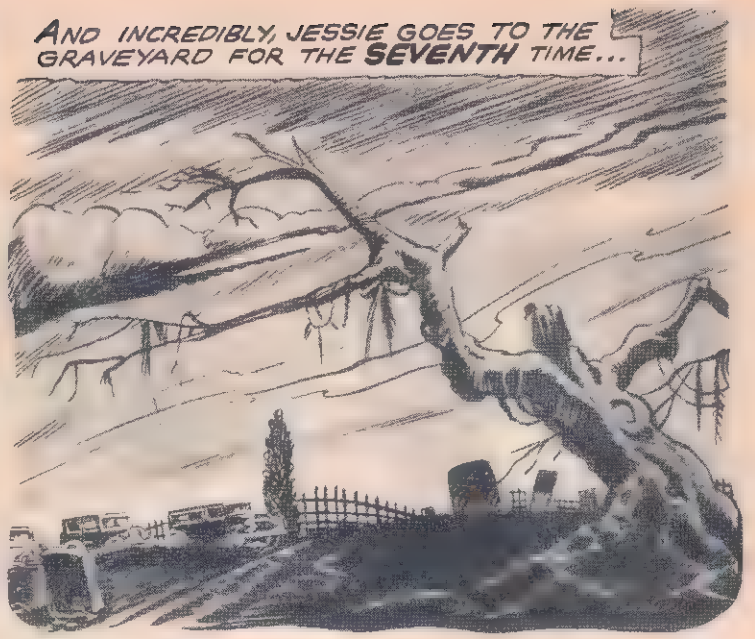
WELL! OF ALL THINGS! IMAGINE—SHE MARRIED THE UNDERTAKER WHO BURIED HER POOR HUSBAND!

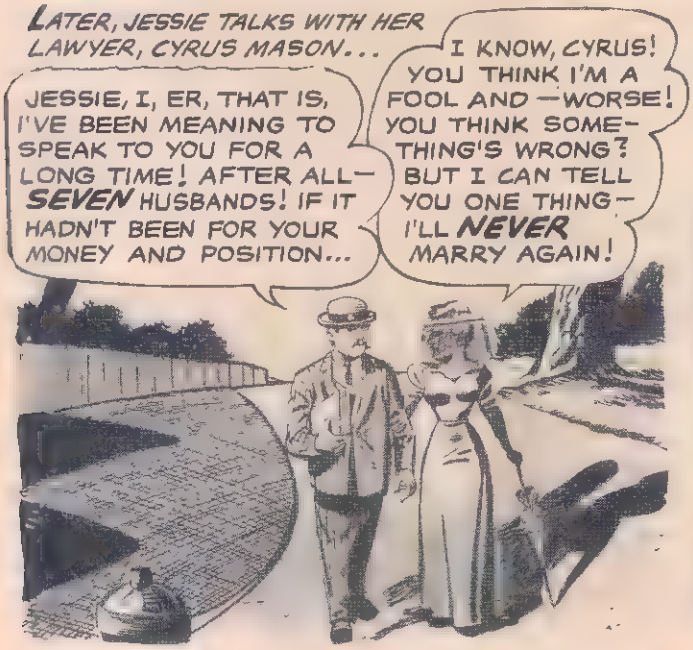
Daily Re

JESSIE WUXTON WEDS LOCAL UNDERTAKER— WEALTHY WIDOW IN SURPRISE CEREMO

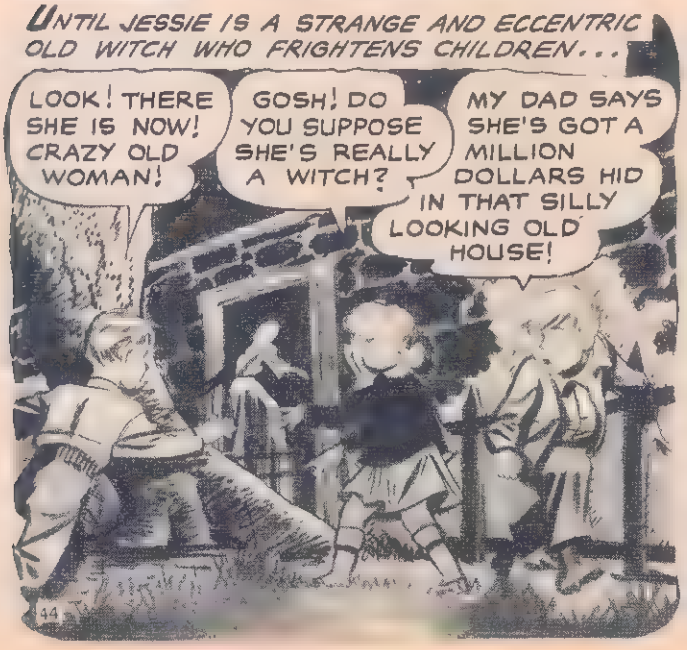
IN TIME, THE TALK DIED DOWN— BUT JESSIE AND HER NEW HUSBAND REMAINED ALOOF...
HUMPF—THERE THEY ARE AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN THAT NEW FANGLED HORSELESS CARRIAGE! THINK THEY'RE SO SMART! TOO GOOD FOR ORDINARY FOLKS!
YES! THEY'LL—(SNIFF)—LIKELY BE BUYING ONE OF THEM CRAZY FLYING MACHINES NEXT!
BUT A CERTAIN GRIM PERSONAGE HAS OTHER PLANS FOR JESSIE'S HUSBAND...
PLEASE, M'AM, HE—THE MASTER, IS CALLING FOR YOU! HE'S VERY ILL, M'AM!
YES! I'LL BE THERE IMMEDIATELY!
LATER THAT NIGHT...
HE'S GONE! NOW I WANT YOU ALL TO GO TO YOUR ROOMS AND STAY THERE! NO MORE WORK TONIGHT! REMEMBER—STAY IN YOUR ROOMS!
OH, I'M SORRY, M'AM!
WE'LL GO, M'AM!
SO ONCE AGAIN...
G-GOODBYE, DARLING! I—(SOB)—LOVED YOU SO!
MMMM—NOTHING BUT CROCODILE TEARS, I SAY! SOMETHING MIGHTY STRANGE GOING ON!
YES! YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE SHE WON'T BE SINGLE LONG! I KNOW HER KIND!
UNKIND WORDS—BUT TRUE! FOR IN LESS THAN A YEAR...
GOODBYE! HAPPY HONEYMOON!
GOODBYE! THANK YOU—THANK YOU!
GOOD LUCK, JESSIE!
HURRY, SWEETHEART!
AND ONCE MORE THE OLD—SHOE—WAS FULL OF LIGHTS AND LAUGHTER AND GAIETY...
LOOKS LIKE JESSIE IS HAPPY WITH HER NEW HUSBAND, SURE ENOUGH! FUNNY, THOUGH...
HMMM—I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! MARRYING THE DOCTOR THAT ATTENDED HER HUSBAND! FOLKS ARE STILL TALKING!

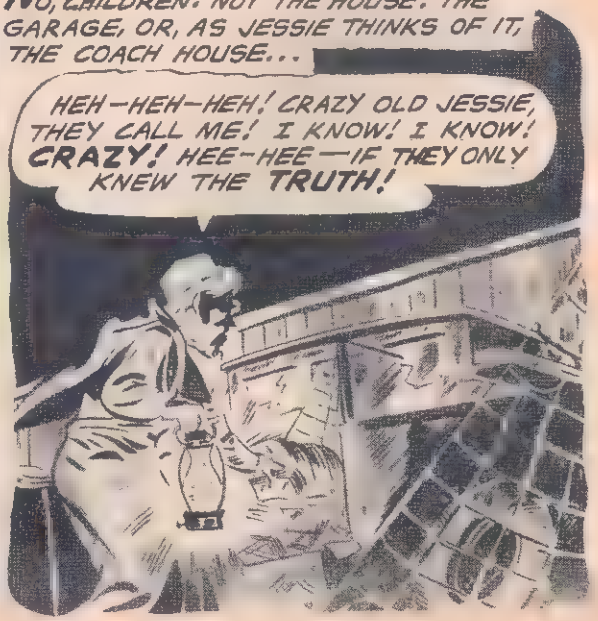
AND NOW THE WIND RISES AND BLOWS AWAY THE YEARS...
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922


AND INCREDIBLY, JESSIE GOES TO THE GRAVEYARD FOR THE SEVENTH TIME...


LATER, JESSIE TALKS WITH HER LAWYER, CYRUS MASON...
JESSIE, I, ER, THAT IS, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SPEAK TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME! AFTER ALL— SEVEN HUSBANDS! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOUR MONEY AND POSITION...
I KNOW, CYRUS! YOU THINK I'M A FOOL AND —WORSE! YOU THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG? BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING— I'LL NEVER MARRY AGAIN!

JESSIE KEEPS HER PROMISE AND MORE YEARS ROT AWAY...
Daily Bugle
WAR!
HITLER INVADES POLAND!


UNTIL JESSIE IS A STRANGE AND ECCENTRIC OLD WITCH WHO FRIGHTENS CHILDREN...
LOOK! THERE SHE IS NOW! CRAZY OLD WOMAN!
GOSH! DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S REALLY A WITCH?
MY DAD SAYS SHE'S GOT A MILLION DOLLARS HID IN THAT SILLY LOOKING OLD HOUSE!


NO, CHILDREN! NOT THE HOUSE! THE GARAGE, OR, AS JESSIE THINKS OF IT, THE COACH HOUSE...
HEH—HEH—HEH! CRAZY OLD JESSIE, THEY CALL ME! I KNOW! I KNOW! CRAZY! HEE—HEE—IF THEY ONLY KNEW THE TRUTH!

ONE NIGHT, JERRY MASON, SON OF THE ELDERLY LAWYER WHO HAD SERVED JESSIE SO WELL, GETS A PHONE CALL...
BLAST IT! I'VE HAD A HARD DAY IN COURT! NOW WHO IN THE DEVIL...
R-R-RING
WHO? OH, JESSIE! BUT CAN'T IT WAIT UNTIL— OH, IT'S URGENT! VERY WELL, IF I MUST! I'LL COME OVER RIGHT AWAY!
WONDER WHAT THE POOR OLD SOUL WANTS NOW? BUT MAYBE I CAN PERSUADE HER TO TRUST HER MONEY TO A BANK! IT WORRIES ME—THE WAY SHE KEEPS MONEY AND SECURITIES AROUND! IT HAS BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE SHE LET ANYONE IN HER HOUSE!
AND...
HELLO, JESSIE! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT! DECIDED TO LET ME BANK YOUR MONEY FOR YOU AFTER ALL?
HEH-HEH, NOT ME! COME IN, YOUNG MAN, COME IN! SOMETHING I GOT TO SHOW YOU!
WHEWWWW—THAT MUSTY SMELL! BET SHE HASN'T CLEANED UP IN TWENTY YEARS! MAYBE I'D BETTER START INSANITY PROCEEDINGS AFTER ALL!
COME ON, YOUNG MAN! HURRY! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME! YOUR FATHER NEVER DAWDLED LIKE THIS!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? W-WHAT'S UP HERE?
YOU'LL SEE—ONLY HURRY! I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME! MY HEART IS BAD! I MAY DIE ANY MINUTE!
GO ON, YOU YOUNG FOOL! OPEN IT AND LOOK! SOMEONE HAS TO KNOW, DON'T YOU SEE?
I—UH—WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT, JESSIE? YOUR HEART? AND WHAT'S IN THIS ROOM?
IT'S HAPPENED! SHE'S AS CRAZY AS A LOON! I'D BETTER HUMOR HER.

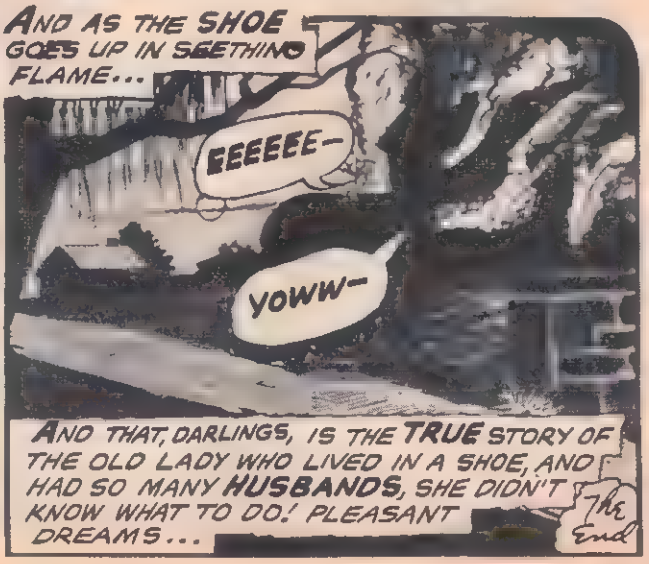
SO, TO HUMOR OLD JESSIE, HE OPENS THE DOOR...
HUH! Y!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!—

JESSIE! YOUR HUSBANDS! YAAAAAA—
HEE—HEE—HEE—
HAH—HAH—HAH—
HEH—HEH—HEH—

YES! MY HUSBANDS! HEE—HEE—HEE! ALL SEVEN! CRAZY, INSANE, EVERY ONE! DON'T ASK ME WHY! IT JUST HAPPENED! SO I PRETENDED TO BURY THEM, WHEN ALL THE TIME I— UHHHHH — MY HEART — THE PAIN—

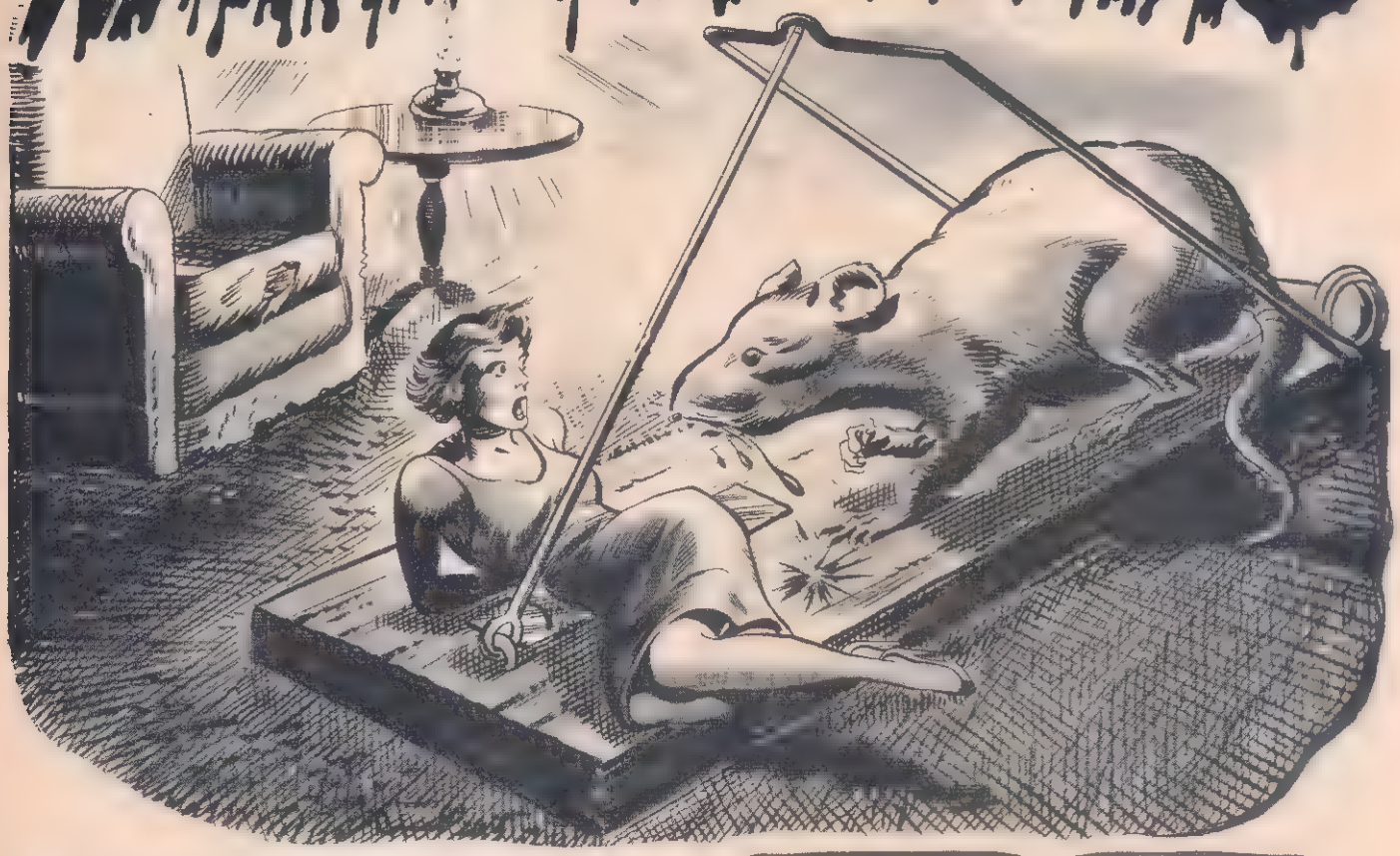
EEEEEEEEE-

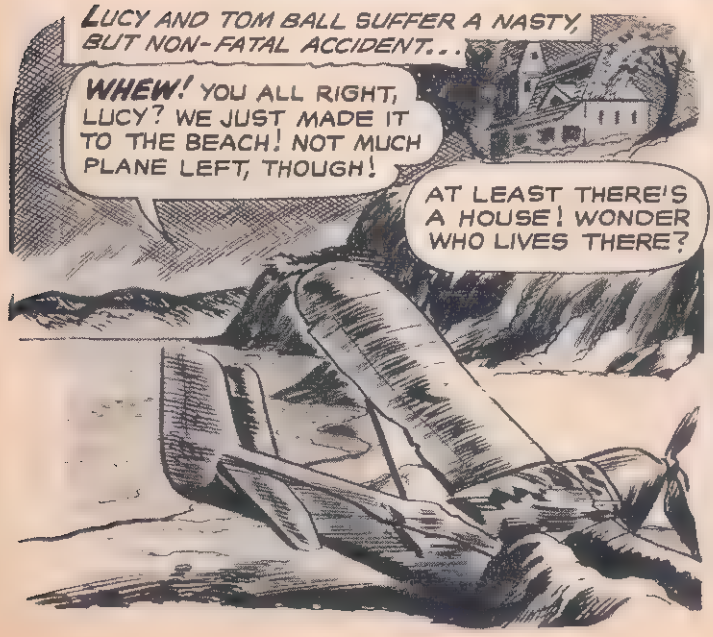
THE SWIRL OF HUNGRY FLAME CAUSES A SUDDEN DRAFT...
THE DOOR — A SPRING LOCK! I'M LOCKED IN — NO! GAAAAAA—

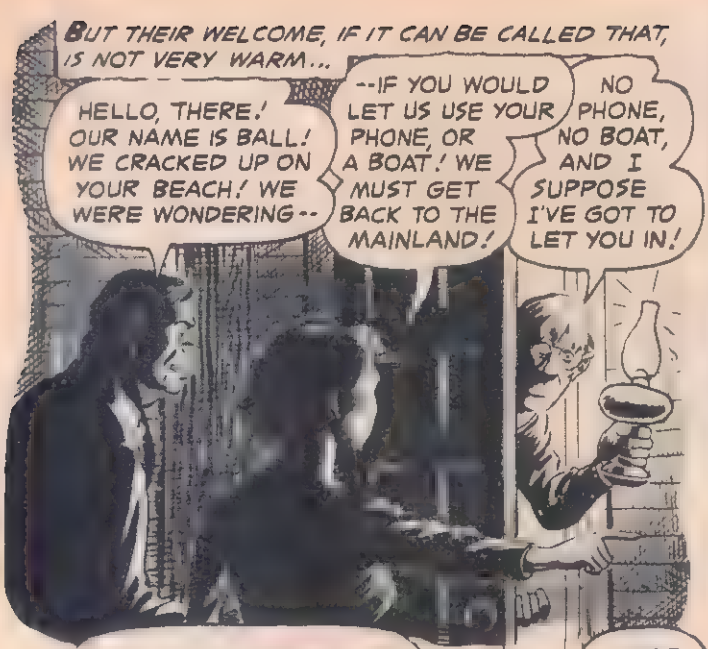

AND AS THE SHOE GOES UP IN SEETHING FLAME...
EEEEEE—
YOWW—
AND THAT, DARLINGS, IS THE TRUE STORY OF THE OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE, AND HAD SO MANY HUSBANDS, SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! PLEASANT DREAMS...
The End

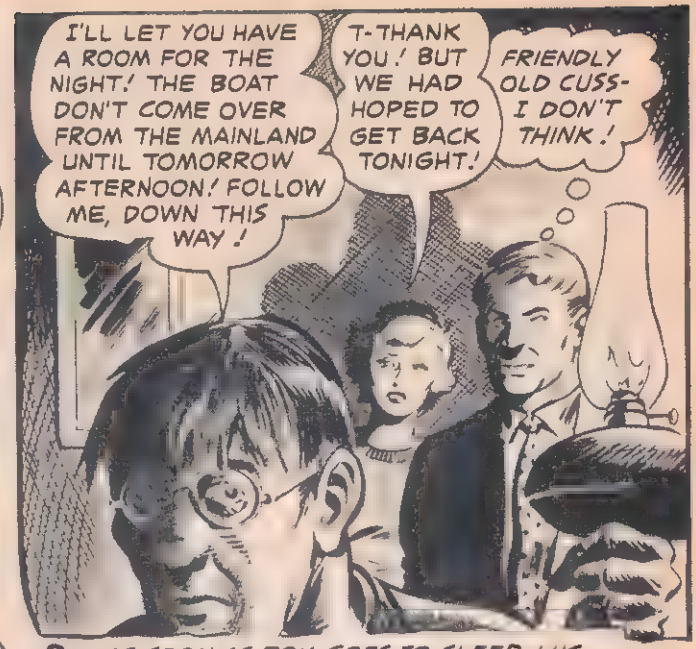
BENEATH A BROILING, PITILESS SUN, WHERE ONLY BARREN ROCK AND JUDAS WEED COULD FLOURISH, THERE STOOD THE LITTLE ISLAND, A MILE FROM SHORE AS MEN RECKON DISTANCE — BUT A MILLION MILES INTO THE DARK PAST AS MEN RECKON TERROR! AND INTO THIS PIT OF PERIL CAME TWO STRANGERS, WAYFARERS WHO SOUGHT HELP, AND INSTEAD WERE LED DOWN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION TO A DEATH THAT NONE, HOWEVER EVIL, COULD DESERVE! HERE WAS A MADMAN WHO EXPERIMENTED WITH **MUTANTS**, STRANGE AND GROTESQUE SPECIES OF BEASTS WHO SLAVERED FOR HUMAN BLOOD! IN THE END, THREE HUMANS, AND A BRUTE WHO BELONGED IN A NIGHTMARE, WERE ALL CAUGHT IN THE TERRIBLE, SPINE-SNAPPING SNARE: **THE BIG RAT TRAP...**

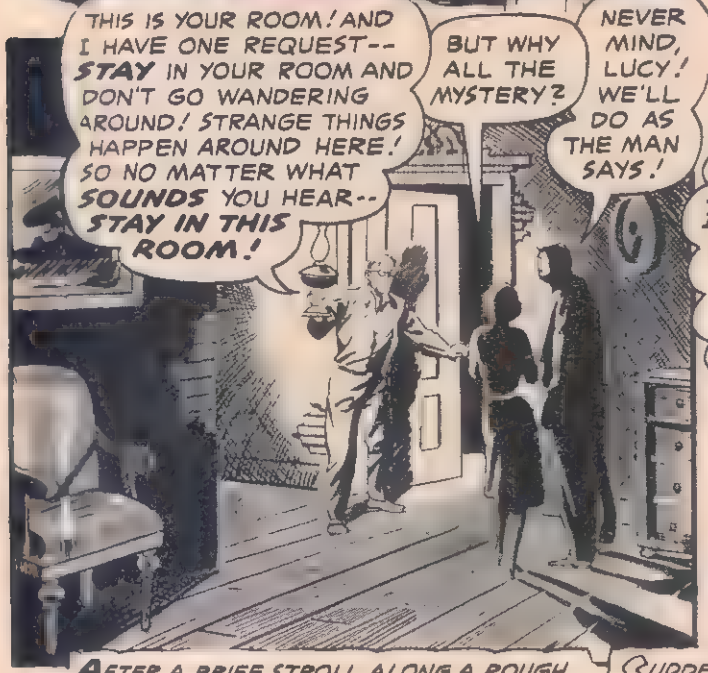
NIGHTMARE ISLAND

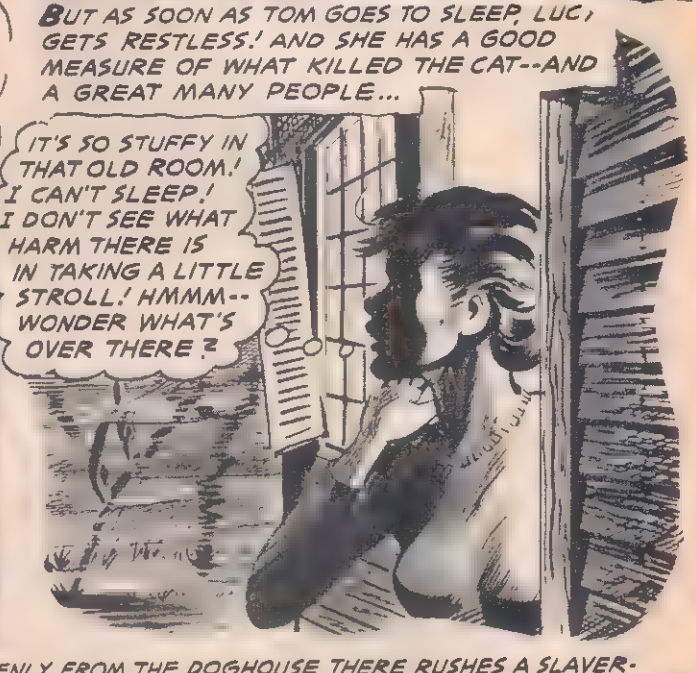


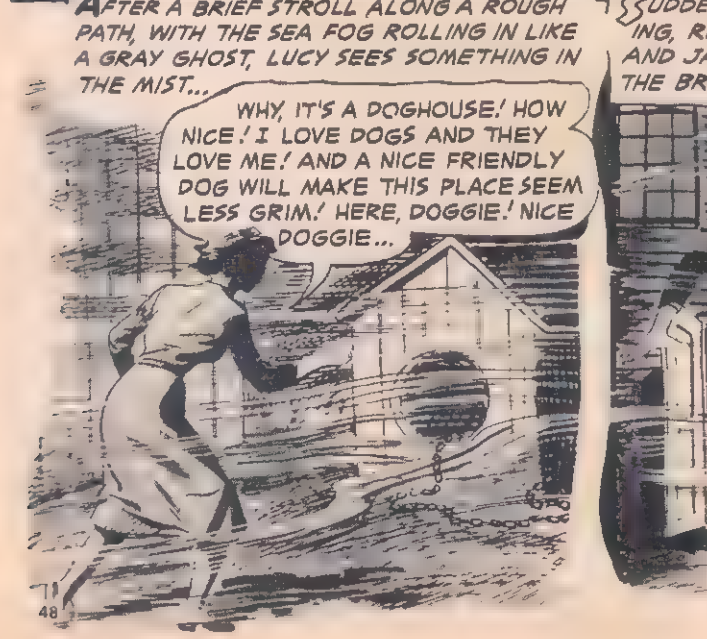


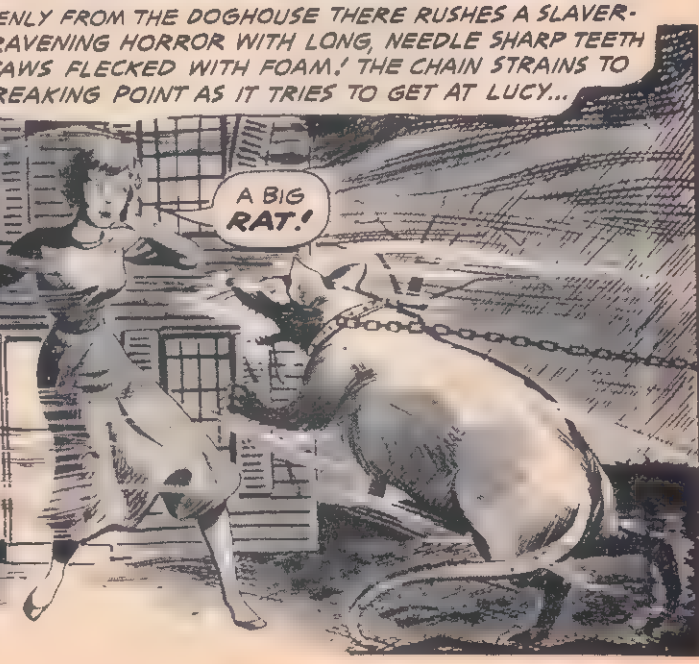

BUT THEIR WELCOME, IF IT CAN BE CALLED THAT, IS NOT VERY WARM...
HELLO, THERE! OUR NAME IS BALL! WE CRACKED UP ON YOUR BEACH! WE WERE WONDERING--
--IF YOU WOULD LET US USE YOUR PHONE, OR A BOAT! WE MUST GET BACK TO THE MAINLAND!
NO PHONE, NO BOAT, AND I SUPPOSE I'VE GOT TO LET YOU IN!


I'LL LET YOU HAVE A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT! THE BOAT DON'T COME OVER FROM THE MAINLAND UNTIL TOMORROW AFTERNOON! FOLLOW ME, DOWN THIS WAY!
T-THANK YOU! BUT WE HAD HOPED TO GET BACK TONIGHT!
FRIENDLY OLD CUSS- I DON'T THINK!


THIS IS YOUR ROOM! AND I HAVE ONE REQUEST-- STAY IN YOUR ROOM AND DON'T GO WANDERING AROUND! STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN AROUND HERE! SO NO MATTER WHAT SOUNDS YOU HEAR-- STAY IN THIS ROOM!
BUT WHY ALL THE MYSTERY?
NEVER MIND, LUCY! WE'LL DO AS THE MAN SAYS!


BUT AS SOON AS TOM GOES TO SLEEP, LUCY GETS RESTLESS! AND SHE HAS A GOOD MEASURE OF WHAT KILLED THE CAT--AND A GREAT MANY PEOPLE...
IT'S SO STUFFY IN THAT OLD ROOM! I CAN'T SLEEP! I DON'T SEE WHAT HARM THERE IS IN TAKING A LITTLE STROLL! HMMM-- WONDER WHAT'S OVER THERE?


AFTER A BRIEF STROLL ALONG A ROUGH PATH, WITH THE SEA FOG ROLLING IN LIKE A GRAY GHOST, LUCY SEES SOMETHING IN THE MIST...
WHY, IT'S A DOGHOUSE! HOW NICE! I LOVE DOGS AND THEY LOVE ME! AND A NICE FRIENDLY DOG WILL MAKE THIS PLACE SEEM LESS GRIM! HERE, DOGGIE! NICE DOGGIE...


SUDDENLY FROM THE DOGHOUSE THERE RUSHES A SLAVERING, RAVENING HORROR WITH LONG, NEEDLE SHARP TEETH AND JAWS FLECKED WITH FOAM! THE CHAIN STRAINS TO THE BREAKING POINT AS IT TRIES TO GET AT LUCY...
A BIG RAT!

LUCY FAINTS JUST OUT OF REACH OF THE CRUEL JAWS! THE OTHERS, AROUSED BY HER TERRIFIED SCREAMS, RUSH FROM THE HOUSE...

YOUR WIFE IS A FOOL, SIR! SHE DELIBERATELY DISOBEYED MY ORDERS! SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!

SHE MEANT NO HARM! BUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS BLASTED PLACE ANYWAY?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DARLING? WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

NEVER MIND THE RAT NOW! HE CAN'T HURT YOU! COME BACK INTO THE HOUSE AND I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN! I GUESS I OWE IT TO YOU!

IN THE DOG-HOUSE--THAT TERRIBLE RAT!

SO...

I'M A SCIENTIST, NOT AN INVENTOR! MY SPECIALTY IS ABNORMAL BIOLOGY, AND RIGHT NOW I'M WORKING ON MUTANTS! BY CROSSBREEDING AND CAREFUL SELECTION I CAN PRODUCE EITHER PIGMY SPECIES, OR GIANTS! SEE THESE LITTLE HORSES!

THE HORSES ARE CUTE! BUT THAT GIANT R-RAT! UGH!

INTERESTING!

LATER...

ODD OLD DUCK, ISN'T HE! SEEMS TO KNOW HIS STUFF, THOUGH! BUT I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON--NO MORE SNEAKING OUT TO SEE THE SIGHTS! THAT RAT WOULD HAVE TORN YOU TO PIECES IF HE HAD GOTTEN LOOSE!

OH, DON'T TALK ABOUT IT! I JUST WANT TO LEAVE THIS AWFUL PLACE!

SOMETIME LATER LUCY IS STARTLED AWAKE BY A SCREAM OF SHEER TERROR! IT SENDS ICY FINGERS PRICKLING DOWN HER SPINE...

GRACIOUS, WHAT WAS THAT? H-HORRIBLE!

QUICKLY AWAKENING HER HUSBAND, THEY FOLLOW THE GASPING, BUBBLING SCREAMS DOWN THE PATH TO THE SINISTER DOGHOUSE! AS THEY REACH IT THE SCREAMS CEASE AND A DREADFULL SIGHT GREETS THEM...

IT'S THE OLD MAN! LOOKS LIKE HE'S DEAD! BLOOD ALL OVER EVERYTHING! UGH! HE'S LITERALLY TORN TO PIECES!

B-BUT THE CHAIN! LOOK--IT'S BROKEN!

IMMEDIATELY THEY REALIZE THEIR TERRIBLE PLIGHT...

THE CHAIN BROKE AND THE BIG RAT GOT HIM! IT'S GONE, LOOSE SOMEWHERE ON THE ISLAND! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THAT MEANS, LUCY! IT'LL BE AFTER US NEXT, AS SOON AS IT'S HUNGRY! AND WE HAVE NO WEAPONS!

BUT THE HOUSE--THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING THERE.

BUT THEIR SEARCH IS FRUITLESS! THERE ARE NO WEAPONS TO BE FOUND! SO THEY FRANTICALLY BARRICADE THE DOORS AND WINDOWS AND WAIT FOR THE WORSE...

MAYBE THAT WILL KEEP HIM OUT, BUT I DOUBT IT! ANYWAY WE'RE SAFER INSIDE THAN OUT, AND IF I CAN GET A LICK AT HIM WITH THIS AXE!

BUT WE HAVE TO SLEEP SOMETIME! I'M DEAD ON MY FEET NOW!

THEN TOM BALL GLANCES INTO A CORNER AND HAS AN INSPIRATION...

LUCY, LOOK! THAT DEAD MOUSE IN THE TRAP! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK! WE CAN MAKE A **BIG** TRAP AND CATCH THAT MONSTER!

OF COURSE! I SAW A LOT OF TOOLS AND GADGETS IN THE OLD MAN'S WORKROOM! MAYBE WE **CAN** DO IT!

HOURS LATER, AFTER SOME DESPERATE IMPROVISING...

CAREFUL, DEAR! THAT'S A POWERFUL SPRING! BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING, WOULDN'T HE COME AFTER THE OTHER ANIMALS IN HERE BEFORE HE ATTACKED US!

DON'T COUNT ON IT, HONEY! REMEMBER, HE'S TASTED HUMAN FLESH NOW! I'LL FEEL A LOT SAFER WHEN WE GET THIS THING SET AND BAITED!

AS THE SUN RISES IN A LURID, BLOODY BALL ABOVE THE ROCKY HORIZON...

THERE! THAT MEAT IS HALF ROTTEN ANYWAY! IT SHOULD ATTRACT HIM, AND WHEN IT DOES-- WELL, WE CAN ONLY WAIT AND LISTEN FOR THE TRAP TO SPRING- I HOPE!

B-BUT SUPPOSE HE GETS IN ANOTHER WAY!

WE'VE JUST GOT TO TAKE OUR CHANCES AND STAY ALERT! WE CAN'T CLOSE AN EYE! ACCORDING TO THE OLD MAN THE BOAT WON'T BE HERE UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON! WE'VE GOT TO STAY ALIVE UNTIL THEN!

I D-DON'T KNOW! I'VE GOT A SICK FEELING THAT THE BIG RAT IS LAUGHING AT US RIGHT NOW! I SEEM TO FEEL HIS EYES BORING INTO MY BACK!

AND IN THE BASEMENT, AFTER SLITHERING INTO A WINDOW, THE RAT PATIENTLY GNAWS AWAY A DOOR THAT WILL LET HIM INTO THE HOUSE...

CRUNCH CRUNCH

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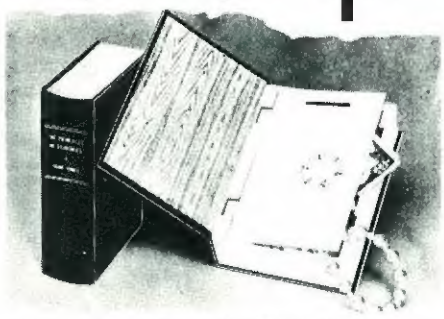

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Fires 22 cal. pellets just as fast as you can pull the trigger. Great for fast action combat-type target practice. 50 re-usable 22 cal. pellets free. Free supply of targets. Money back if not satisfied. Just send $1.00 plus 25c for postage and handling to Honor House Dept. 472RA87
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50-22 Cal. Pellets Free.

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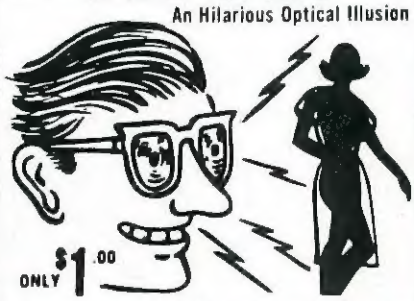
X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion



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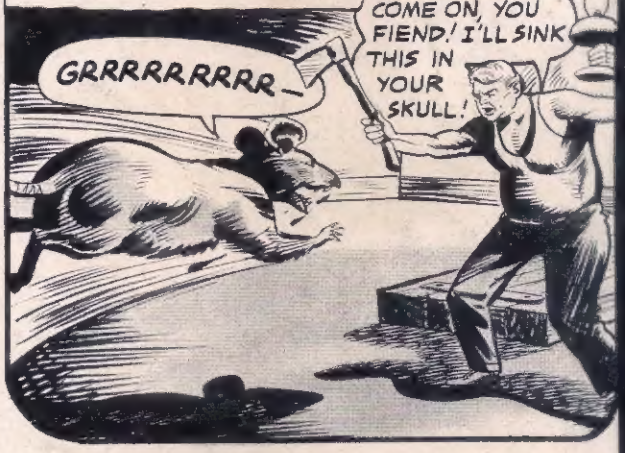
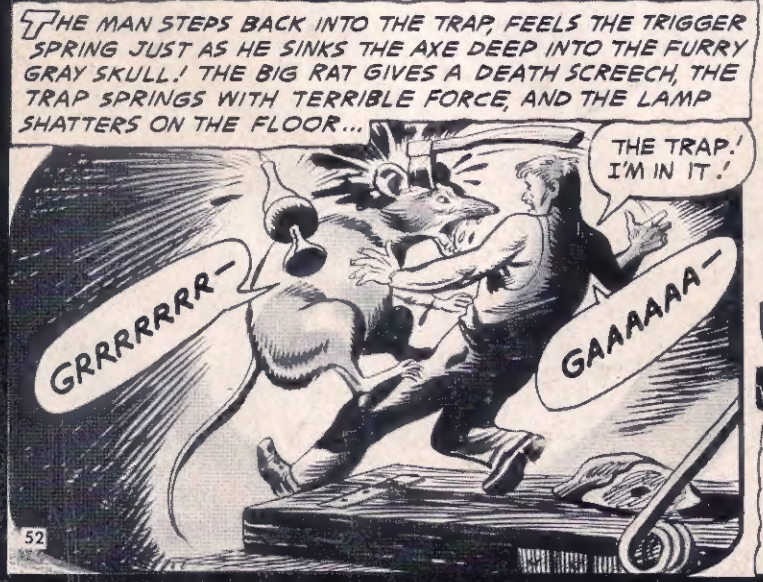
TOM BALL THEN MAKES A FATAL MISTAKE...
I JUST REMEMBERED, LUCY! WE BETTER CHECK THOSE BASEMENT WINDOWS AGAIN! I NOTICED THAT SOME OF THE LATCHES WERE LOOSE! I'LL STAY HERE BY THE DOOR!
WELL, OKAY! B-BUT I DON'T LIKE TO GO DOWN THERE ALONE!

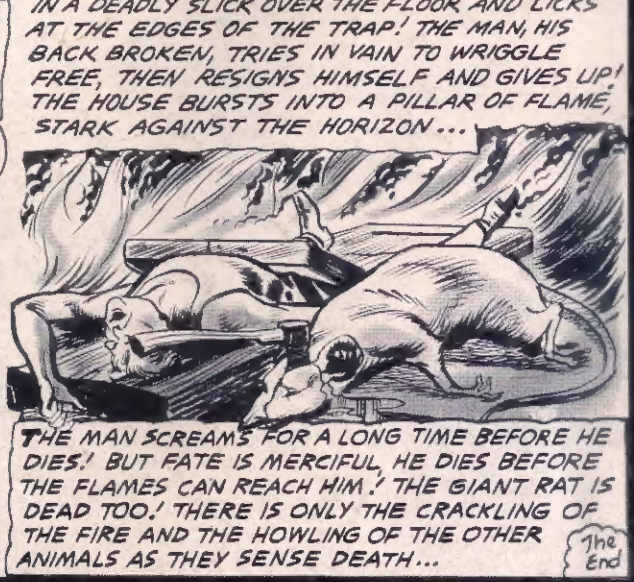
THREE SECONDS LATER...
AAAAAA--TOM! THE RAT!!

THE FRANTIC MAN GETS THERE TOO LATE!
YOU FILTHY BRUTE! YOU KILLED LUCY!
GAAA!
GRRRRR-

DROPPING THE LIFELESS BODY OF THE WOMAN, THE RAT GNASHES ITS TEETH AT THE MAN! BLOOD SMEARS ITS GRAY JAWS AND IN THE LITTLE RED EYES GLEAMS PURE HATE...
YOU DEVIL! COMING AFTER ME NOW, ARE YOU!
GRRRRR-
OWRRRR-


BUT HE FORGETS, MAKES AN INSTINCTIVE MOVE BACKWARD TO CATCH HIS BALANCE BEFORE HE BRINGS THE AXE DOWN...
COME ON, YOU FIEND! I'LL SINK THIS IN YOUR SKULL!
GRRRRRRRRR-


THE MAN STEPS BACK INTO THE TRAP, FEELS THE TRIGGER SPRING JUST AS HE SINKS THE AXE DEEP INTO THE FURRY GRAY SKULL! THE BIG RAT GIVES A DEATH SCREECH, THE TRAP SPRINGS WITH TERRIBLE FORCE, AND THE LAMP SHATTERS ON THE FLOOR...
THE TRAP! I'M IN IT!
GRRRRRRR-
GAAAAAA-


THE OIL FROM THE SHATTERED LAMP SPREADS IN A DEADLY SLICK OVER THE FLOOR AND LICKS AT THE EDGES OF THE TRAP! THE MAN, HIS BACK BROKEN, TRIES IN VAIN TO WRIGGLE FREE, THEN RESIGNS HIMSELF AND GIVES UP! THE HOUSE BURSTS INTO A PILLAR OF FLAME, STARK AGAINST THE HORIZON...
THE MAN SCREAMS FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE HE DIES! BUT FATE IS MERCIFUL, HE DIES BEFORE THE FLAMES CAN REACH HIM! THE GIANT RAT IS DEAD TOO! THERE IS ONLY THE CRACKLING OF THE FIRE AND THE HOWLING OF THE OTHER ANIMALS AS THEY SENSE DEATH...
The End